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424

PART LXVII.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

November 1881.

120

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

PART LXVII.

No. 1.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, November* 1.)

Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, le 18 *Octobre*, 1881.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

DEPUIS quelque temps l'attitude des autorités Bulgares à l'égard de la Sublime Porte se trouve être empreinte d'une hostilité systématique.

On rivalise pour ainsi dire de zèle à Sophia dans le but de nous susciter des difficultés et des embarras de toutes sortes. Pour n'en citer qu'un exemple, je dois mentionner les obstacles qu'on a élevés à propos du Bureau spécial institué au Département du Premier Ministre, sous la direction du Grand Chancelier du Divan Impérial, pour la prompte expédition des affaires de la Principauté de Bulgarie et des provinces privilégiées de l'Empire. Sans vouloir aborder ici la question de principe clairement établie dans ma lettre ci-jointe en copie à Nihad Pacha, je me bornerai à constater que, malgré ses promesses réitérées les plus formelles d'autoriser l'Agence de Bulgarie à Constantinople à accepter provisoirement les législations du dit bureau, le Gouvernement Princier a fini, après bien des tergiversations, par nous donner une réponse déclinatoire, au détriment d'un nombre considérable de Musulmans dont les intérêts s'y trouvent sérieusement engagés.

Mais là ne s'arrêtent pas les moyens dont on use pour priver ces malheureux de l'exercice de leurs droits. L'extrait également ci-joint de divers documents vous fera voir quels sont les actes de vexation et de spoliation auxquels ils sont en butte de la part des autorités Bulgares, qui ne respectent pas plus les établissements religieux et d'enseignement que les propriétés privées.

En signalant cet état de choses à votre Excellence, je la prie d'y attirer la sérieuse attention de M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères. Nous ne doutons point que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, reconnaissant, dans ses sentiments d'équité, la justesse de nos observations, ne veuille bien faire entendre à Sophia sa voix pour amener le Gouvernement Princier au respect des principes les plus élémentaires d'une Administration régulière. Si, contrairement à notre attente, les autorités Bulgares persistaient à observer la même attitude dans les questions pendantes dont il s'agit, elles seraient naturellement responsables des dommages qui en résulteraient pour tant de malheureux émigrés.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Assim Pasha to Nihad Pasha.

Le 3 *Mai*, 1881.

IL y a quelque temps un Bureau spécial a été institué au Département du Premier Ministre, sous la direction du Grand Chancelier du Divan Impérial, pour l'expédition des affaires de la Principauté de Bulgarie et des provinces privilégiées de l'Empire Ottoman.

L'Agence de Bulgarie à Constantinople refuse de se mettre en communication avec ce Bureau. Je vous transmets ci-joint, pour votre information, copie de la lettre qu'elle a cru devoir m'adresser à ce sujet.

Tout en faisant ressortir à vos yeux l'irrégularité de certaines expressions de M. Balabanoff, telle que, par exemple, le mot "Souverain," qui ne s'applique qu'aux Princes indépendants, je dois relever ici l'inexactitude de ses raisonnements.

A toutes les communications que son Altesse le Premier Ministre s'est trouvé dans le cas de lui faire, le Prince n'a voulu répondre, vous le savez, que par l'entremise de son Directeur de l'Intérieur. C'est là une innovation qui ne saurait guère s'accorder avec la position de la Principauté, telle qu'elle a été définie par le Traité de Berlin. La Bulgarie est une province autonome placée sous la suzeraineté de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, notre auguste Maître. Les liens qui unissent cette province au reste de l'Empire ne peuvent qu'être atteints par le refus du chef qui la représente auprès de la Cour Suzeraine de correspondre avec le chef de Cabinet Impérial, et par l'intention qu'a manifestée l'Agent de Bulgarie à Constantinople de ne se mettre en rapport qu'avec le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, à l'instar des Agents des Etats indépendants.

C'est pour cela que nous n'avons eu garde d'adopter le mode indiqué par le Gouvernement Princier. Dans son désir de concilier les exigences du service avec les considérations découlant de sa position, la Sublime Porte a décidé que la Chancellerie du Divan Impérial, désignée déjà pour faire le service de correspondance avec les provinces autonomes et privilégiées, serait chargée aussi de se mettre en rapport avec l'Agence de Bulgarie à Constantinople.

Dans sa lettre susmentionnée, M. Balabanoff, en objectant à ce mode de correspondance, invoque, il est vrai, l'exemple de la Roumanie et de la Serbie d'autrefois, mais, indépendamment de la considération qu'aucun Traité ni Convention donnent à cet exemple le caractère d'un précédent obligatoire, il est à observer qu'avant leur indépendance les Princes de Moldo-Valachie et du Monténégro correspondaient non seulement avec la Sublime Porte, mais encore avec les Gouverneurs-Généraux des provinces voisines.

Ainsi, en admettant même qu'on soit fondé à se servir de la pratique suivie à leur égard comme d'un précédent, et que la Sublime Porte consente à l'application de ce précédent à la Bulgarie, nous ne pouvons nous empêcher de remarquer que l'assimilation serait partielle. Accepter une partie de la règle et rejeter l'autre, ou en d'autres termes reconnaitre à l'Agent de Bulgarie à Constantinople la faculté de correspondre avec le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères sans que le Prince voulût répondre aux communications qu'au besoin la Sublime Porte lui ferait sur des questions importantes, c'est là une hypothèse évidemment inadmissible.

D'autre part, la Chancellerie du Divan Impérial, centre des correspondances de l'Etat et du pouvoir législatif, est une branche importante du service public ayant des liens d'attache avec mon Département autant qu'avec celui du Premier Ministre. De telle sorte qu'une correspondance par le canal du Beylikdji ne serait nullement incompatible avec la position de la Principauté contrairement à ce que M. Balabanoff a affirmé verbalement. Il importe de remarquer à ce propos qu'avant l'institution du Bureau dont il s'agit, l'Agence de Bulgarie avait pour habitude d'envoyer directement des takrirs au Département de la Justice, des Cultes et de la Police sans en référer au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, auquel elle veut pourtant restreindre aujourd'hui sa correspondance.

Par ce qui précède vous voyez bien, M. le Commissaire, que l'argumentation de M. Balabanoff est aussi insoutenable en principe que peu justifiée par la pratique. A quelque point de vue qu'elle se place, l'Agence de Bulgarie à Constantinople ne saurait objecter avec raison à l'établissement d'un service qui répond parfaitement au but désiré: la prompte expédition des affaires.

Je vous prie de vous inspirer des considérations plus haut développées dans les démarches que vous aurez à faire à Sophia en vue d'obtenir la suppression des obstacles soulevés par M. Balabanoff. Au cas où le Gouvernement Princier persisterait dans son refus de se mettre en communication avec la Chancellerie du Divan Impérial, vous lui ferez pressentir la possibilité pour l'Agence de Bulgarie de recourir à mon Département pour des affaires entre Bulgares et étrangers comme dans tous les cas où la Principauté aura besoin de son concours, et de s'adresser quant au reste au canal le plus naturellement indiqué pour cela. Je m'en remets à votre tact et à votre savoir-faire du soin de donner à l'affaire une solution conforme aux droits suzerains de la Sublime Porte.

Agréez, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Memorandum.

Agents Commerciaux en Bulgarie.—La Sublime Porte s'est trouvée plus d'une fois dans le cas de s'adresser au Gouvernement Bulgare au sujet de la reconnaissance de ses agents commerciaux.

Contrairement aux assurances données, le Gouvernement Princier ne se montre nullement disposé à terminer cette question, au grand préjudice des intérêts que ces agents sont appelés à défendre.

Transformation du Yali Djamissi en Dépôt d'Armes.—Les autorités Bulgares de Widdin ont transformé la mosquée dite "Yali Djamissi" en dépôt d'armes. Les Musulmans de Widdin se plaignent à bon droit de cette mesure qui, tout en froissant leur sentiment religieux, les prive d'une mosquée que les autorités Bulgares les ont empêchés systématiquement et sans raison aucune de réparer et de livrer au culte.

Conscrits réfractaires Ottomans en Bulgarie.—Informée que des conscrits militaires se trouvaient dans quelques localités de la Bulgarie, la Sublime Porte s'est adressée au Gouvernement Princier pour demander leur remise. Les démarches qui ont été faites à cet effet n'ont abouti à aucun résultat, et ces conscrits, malgré les déclarations du Gouvernement Princier, n'ont jamais été contraints de retourner dans leur pays natal pour servir sous les drapeaux.

Inclosure 3 in No. 1.

Résumé of several paragraphs of the Report addressed by Nihad Pasha, Turkish Comissioner in Bulgaria, to Minister of Foreign Affairs.

(Traduction.)

LES autorités Bulgares ont transformé depuis trois ans à Tirnova le Derkiah, couvent Musulman d'Ak-Baba, en église.

Contrairement aux dispositions du Traité de Berlin—dispositions d'après lesquelles le Gouvernement Ottoman a seul le droit de disposer des mosquées, des écoles, et des biens leur appartenant, les autorités Bulgares se les approprient tous les jours et les détruisent comme bon leur semble.

Mes protestations auprès du Gouvernement Bulgare contre ces actes irréguliers n'ont abouti à rien, et celui-ci continue dans la voie où il s'est engagé. Il est hors de doute que les fonctionnaires Bulgares agiront de même pour les biens des Vacoufs.

Les autorités Bulgares viennent, contrairement à leurs promesses réitérées, de refuser de livrer le Lieutenant Faïk Effendi qui s'était réfugié en Bulgarie, après avoir touché les appointements et le montant des rations de Hadji Osman Pacha, Commandant de Cotdjana.

No. 2.

Consul Sandwith to Earl Granville.—(*Received November 2.*)

(No. 54.) *Canea, Crete, October 22, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that his Excellency Photiades Pasha has seen fit to send a battalion of troops to the district of Apocorona, lying to the east of Suda Bay. Since the disturbances of 1878 no Turkish troops have been stationed in the interior of the island, their presence in the garrison towns being deemed sufficient to preserve order. The occasion which has induced his Excellency to depart from recent custom is the following:—

A Cretan journalist, personally hostile to the Vali, was in the habit of depreciating him in his newspaper, and at last went to the length of inciting the people to revolt. The Procureur-Général proceeded to arrest him, and the Court of First Instance at Canea found him guilty of a crime, and ordered him to be tried before the Court of Appeal, which takes cognizance of graver offences. The partizans and friends of the imprisoned journalist, who belongs to the district of Apocorona, assembled in a tumultuous manner for the purpose of demanding his release, and refused to disperse when called on to do so. The presence of 600 men suddenly appearing amongst them had the desired effect of inducing them to return to their homes. On several recent occasions tumultuous gatherings have taken place when any measure not to the liking of a particular district had been decided on by the central authorities, as in

Mirabello in the east of the island last spring, and more recently near the town of Rethymo. It appears to me that his Excellency the Governor-General has rightly judged in making it plain to the people that such illegal proceedings cannot be tolerated; and there is every reason for supposing that the display of force now resorted to, which is approved of by the great body of the inhabitants, will have the effect of checking such popular demonstrations for the future.

Photiades Pasha has been taking energetic steps for putting down sheep stealing, which has latterly been especially prevalent. The recent law of the General Assembly, which enacted that the gendarmes should not serve in their own districts, has been productive of a notable increase of robbery and crimes of violence, it being found that malefactors were able to evade pursuit and detection in regions more familiar to themselves than to their pursuers. The Administrative Council over which the Pasha presides has taken upon itself to rescind the order of the Assembly by recalling the police to their own districts. Further to check the increase of crime, the chief of police has been making raids on certain villages known to harbour notorious sheep stealers, and has captured more than forty bad characters, who have been lodged in prison. When brought to trial the majority will doubtless be acquitted, from the want of sufficient evidence to convict them; but they will probably remain in prison some weeks before the forms of trial are resorted to. These high-handed measures are striking terror into the evil-disposed, and seem to meet the approval of the law-abiding inhabitants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 3.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 737.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, November* 2, 1881.

IT would seem desirable, in the interests of the Porte, that your Excellency should take some judicious opportunity of drawing the attention of the Sultan and his Ministers to the condition of affairs in Northern Albania, and to the serious consequences which may be expected to result from it, if no effort is made to remedy it. It had been the hope of Her Majesty's Government that the arrangement for the cession of Dulcigno to Montenegro would have been followed by a speedy settlement of the rest of the Montenegrin frontier, and by a serious effort to restore order and good government in the neighbouring Turkish provinces, and to satisfy the population by the grant of institutions suited to their requirements.

The question, however, of the frontier has remained for months *in statu quo*, and the season for surveying it has now passed for this year in consequence of the delay of the Porte in discussing the minor points with regard to that frontier which has been traced east of the Lake of Scutari.

At the same time, beyond spasmodic efforts to put down open insurrection, nothing appears to have been really done towards a regular and improved administration of the Albanian provinces.

The action of the civil authorities seems to be limited to the collection of the taxes, and the country is stated as regards all matters of police to be in a condition little, if at all, short of anarchy, petty tribal warfare and vendetta feuds being prosecuted without any serious attempt on the part of the Executive to check them, and protection for life and property being left to depend on the exertions of the inhabitants.

It is impossible not to see what encouragement is thus given to the aspirations and designs of Slav agitators, nor could it be reasonable to expect that the more ambitious party in Montenegro and their foreign supporters should not view the unsettled state of the frontier and the disorganized condition of the districts beyond it as offering a promise of further acquisitions at no distant date.

Her Majesty's Government, in pressing upon the Porte as they did the settlement of the frontier between the Lake of Scutari and the sea by the cession of Dulcigno, were actuated not only by a sense of their duty in regard to the fulfilment of Treaty stipulations to which they were a party, but also by the conviction that it was in the real interest of the Ottoman Empire and of the general peace of Europe that the troublesome questions which have so continually disturbed the countries on the southern and eastern borders of Montenegro should be set at rest. It would be a matter of disappointment and regret to them that an arrangement to which the Sultan was reluctant to consent should

lose much of the advantages which it promised to secure for His Majesty in consequence of not taking the further measures necessary to ensure order and content.

The considerations which I have pointed out seem scarcely to admit of dispute; they are dictated by no interested or selfish motive, and your Excellency will be able to state in any representations you may be able to make on the subject, that the advice is offered by Her Majesty's Government with a sincere desire to assist the Sultan in the work of placing his administration on a secure and permanent basis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 4.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 126.) *Salonica, October* 21, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch, with one inclosure, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject of an outrage which has been perpetrated by brigands at Colivalar, an estate owned by Messrs. Robert Abbott and Sons, British subjects established at Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 4.

Consul-General Blunt to the Earl of Dufferin.

Salonica, October 21, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a letter of Messrs. Robert Abbott and Sons, British subjects established at this place, giving an account of a serious outrage which was perpetrated on the 17th instant at their farm of Colivalar, in the district of Salonica.

I have addressed a communication on the subject to the Governor-General of Salonica, and asked him to take proper measures for the protection of Messrs. Abbott's property.

The fact that the Governor-General had not heard of the occurrence before this morning, when my letter was placed in his hands, shows how negligently the local police performs its duties.

Colivalar, the scene of the outrage, is in the immediate vicinity of the railway and police stations of Amatovo, barely two hours' distant from Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 4.

Messrs. Abbott and Sons to Consul-General Blunt.

Salonique, le 20 *Octobre*, 1881.

M. le Consul-Général,

L'INTENDANT de nos Tchifliks Amatovo et Colivalar vient nous avertir d'un crime qui a eu lieu dans notre Tchiflik de Colivalar.

Lundi, 17 courant, vers 1 heure du soir, une bande de dix individus se sont présentés dans la maison d'un de nos fermiers, nommé Simsor, à Colivalar, et après avoir sommé ses fils de leur dire où leur père avait son argent, les lièrent les mains derrière le dos ainsi qu'à un tailleur de Calkish, qui se trouvait là, les enfermèrent dans une chambre et se rendirent auprès du vieux Simsor, le frappèrent plusieurs fois avec un couteau, ainsi qu'un de ses voisins, nommé Stanko, qui se trouvait là. Pendant ce temps, le fils de Simsor, ainsi que le tailleur, parvinrent à s'échapper et allèrent à Amatovo prévenir les Séïmens, qui se rendirent immédiatement sur le lieu; mais les malfaiteurs s'étant aperçus que les fils s'étaient échappés, ils sont partis après avoir enlevé tous les bijoux et les objets de quelque valeur qu'ils ont pu trouver. On craint pour la vie des blessés. Le tailleur a reconnu un de ces malfaiteurs, du nom Saleyman Cavas, à la baraque de la station du

chemin de fer à Amatovo. La femme de Stanko et sa fille disent aussi reconnaître trois autres de ces malfaiteurs, mais elles ignorent leurs noms.

Nous venons vous prier, M. le Consul-Général, de vouloir bien insister auprès des autorités locales pour qu'un exemple soit fait, et qu'une juste punition soit infligée à ces malfaiteurs, le crime faisant un grand tort à nos intérêts; car tous nos fermiers veulent quitter nos fermes, disant que leur vie n'est plus en sûreté.

Nous avons, &c.

(Signé) R. ABBOTT AND SON.

No. 5.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 4.)

(No. 127.)

My Lord, *Salonica, October* 24, 1881.

IN continuation of my Reports on the prevalence of brigandage in Macedonia, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that official intelligence has been received here to the effect that the brigand Chief Katzaro captured on the 18th instant, and carried off to the mountains, two well-to-do inhabitants (Dimitri Koptseli and Basil Koutlo) of Colindro, in district of Caterina. He demands a heavy ransom for their release.

I inclose extracts from the "Cossova" and the "Pharos of Macedonia" newspapers, furnishing information of further outrages in the interior.

The "Cossova" is the official organ of the vilayet of that name.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 5.

Extract of a Paragraph from the "Cossova" of October 19, 1881.

(Translation.)

THE daring perpetrators of the various acts of robbery, murder, and mutilation which took place in the Caza of Geïlan, and which recently have been reported from the spot where they are most rife, have been pursued.

With a view to insure the tranquillity of the district, and for the purpose of protecting it, Moussa Agha, senior captain of a line battalion, was detached on special duty, with his company, to the above-named caza, receiving the co-operation of Mustapha Agha, a sergeant of the police of Pristina, with ten men. The Captain started off for the Nahié of Upper Morava, while the sergeant visited that of Lower Morava. In the course of their search, they came on and surprised, in the village of Velouglova, two notorious ruffians, viz., Edriss, of that village, and his companion, a man of the name of Suleiman.

The sergeant, Mustapha, as well as the Mukhtar and members of the Council of Elders of Velouglova, summoned these men to surrender, but they refused, and prepared for armed resistance; and we now learn from the official report of the Chief of Police that, at the end of a fight which lasted four or five hours, Edriss and Suleiman were killed, and that a policeman, called Urkuplu Ibrahim, has been wounded in the back by a bullet fired by one of the brigands.

Inclosure 2 in No. 5.

Extract from a Letter from Alistrati, dated October 10, 1881, *as published in the Greek Newspaper "Pharos of Macedonia" of October* 22, 1881.

(Translation.)

AS regards public security, last week some brigands, whose names are not known, seized a Turk near a stream named Kemer, about an hour's distance from Alistrati, and after tying his hands, they stripped him of all that he had. After a captivity of seven hours they released him. The victim's name is Hadji Iboush.

The diminution of activity on the part of the brigands in this neighbourhood is owing in a great measure to the untiring pursuit of them which is continually kept up by Sergeant Demir Agha, who is stationed here with twenty men.

This man does very great honour to the Imperial Government by the line of conduct

he has pursued in the matter—conduct which, we believe, will gain well-merited reward for this praiseworthy officer. But we regret to say that yesterday some brigands, number unknown, from what are called "comitadjis," entered the village of Tratzova, in this district, and committed the following outrage:—They ransacked from top to bottom three Christian houses, not even leaving their inmates the clothes on their backs. They then murdered the village guard, an Albanian, a fine old fellow of the name of Dalib Agha (a Mahommedan), cutting his body to pieces. The panic in the village has become general, and respectable persons are contemplating emigration.

Raise your voice, Mr. Editor, until it reach our rulers, so that, becoming anxious, they may provide for the safety of their children of (district) Zihna, the most loyal in the Empire.

No. 6.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 4.)

(No. 132.)

My Lord, *Salonica, October* 24, 1881.

HIDAYET PASHA received yesterday evening a telegram from Dervish Pasha announcing his occupation of the Province of Debra, after some fighting with the mountaineers of Ljuma. He states that the most influential Albanian Chiefs have shown their acquiescence in his military arrangements, and their loyalty to the Sultan by solemnly promising to pay the taxes and submit to the military conscription and a general census of the population.

It appears, from all I have gathered from Hidayet Pasha, that opposition which Dervish Pasha met at Ljuma was properly and sternly repressed by his troops.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 7.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 4.)

(No. 124.)

My Lord, *Scutari, October* 24, 1881.

IN support of my despatches Nos. 116 and 117 of the 21st and 22nd ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the copy of a translation communicated to me of what Prince Nicholas styles his Charter to the Dulcigniotes.

It defines the limits within which those people will have to perform military service; explains the guarantees given for the due maintenance of the Mahommedan religion in the schools, which must be attended by the Dulcigniote youth; and, finally, admits the application of Mussulman law in all marriage, succession, and dowry cases.

As your Lordship will observe by my Report No. 107 of the 15th ultimo, the whole of the concessions contained in the Charter had been promised to me by the Prince when I first brought the subject under his consideration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Charter granted by Prince Nicholas to the Mussulmans of Dulcigno.

(Traduction.)

NOUS, Nicolas I^er^, par la grâce de Dieu, Prince du Monténégro:

Par la volonté de Dieu, la ville de Dulcigno et son territoire m'ont été remis et annexés à la Principauté de Monténégro. De même que je veille paternellement pour que mes nouveaux sujets soient égaux aux anciens Monténégrins dans la jouissance des droits et bienfaits, de même je veux qu'ils partagent, avec eux, les mêmes devoirs et obligations que leur impose la nouvelle patrie.

C'est pour ça que j'ai donné l'ordre pour que la conscription militaire soit faite à Dulcigno et son district.

De cette obligation militaire sont entièrement exempts tous les capitaines maritimes, ainsi que tous ceux des Dulcignots qui font la profession des matelots ; ceux-ci ne seront pas empêchés, pour les devoirs militaires, de continuer leur voyage par la mer ; mais lorsqu'ils restent chez eux, ils sont soumis, comme d'autres, aux dispositions de la loi militaire.

Aux guerriers de Dulcigno et son district on ne fera pas d'en franchir la frontière. Leur unique devoir c'est que les citadins seront chargés de faire, dans leur propre ville, le service de la garde nécessaire pour la liberté personnelle des gens, et la sûreté de leurs biens. Les villageois, eux aussi, feront, pour le même but, le même service dans leurs villages et campagnes. En un mot, il sera imposé aux uns et aux autres la tâche du service de la garde dans leur district dont ils avaient été jusqu'à présent chargés les habitants de l'ancien Monténégro.

C'est dans ce but qu'il est nécessaire actuellement d'organiser une escouade de 75 hommes auxquels on distribuera des fusils, et lesquels seront destinés de se charger du service de la garde dans cette partie-là de la Principauté. A tour de rôle ils seront remplacés par d'autres conscrits.

Pour démontrer combien je prends à cœur la prospérité et le bien-être de la population du district de Dulcigno, je donne la permission à tous de ses habitants, qui s'apercevraient que leurs intérêts privés et domestiques souffrent des services militaires, d'en informer le représentant de mon autorité à Dulcigno, après quoi il leur sera donné pleine et entière liberté de pouvoir s'exempter des services susmentionnés au moyen d'un rançon. Les sommes perçues de cette manière seront employées pour recruter, organiser, et entretenir la garde régulière, composée, soit des habitants du district de Dulcigno lui-même, soit de ceux des autres districts de la Principauté. Ces hommes-ci seront chargés de faire, à la place de ceux qui se feront exemptés, le service de la garde dans la ville de Dulcigno, ainsi que dans les villages et campagnes de ce district.

En me souciant constamment et paternellement du progrès et du développement intellectuel de mon peuple, il m'est impossible de laisser la population Musulmane de Dulcigno sans la doter d'une école, qui est le principal fondement et source d'où proviennent le bien-être et la prospérité de chaque pays. Mais je me propose de régler cette école d'une telle manière pour qu'elle, d'une part, réponde complètement au but, et d'autre, qu'elle ne sache aucunement froisser les susceptibilités religieuses de mes sujets Musulmans. Conformément aux prescriptions par lesquelles cette école doit être régie, un "hodja" donnera journellement aux enfants, une heure avant midi, et une heure après, des leçons de lecture et d'écriture en Turque, ainsi que des leçons d'autres savoirs utiles. Pendant le reste du temps un autre maître d'école apprendra aux enfants d'écrire et lire en Serbe, et leur donnera des leçons de la grammaire, de l'arithmétique, de l'histoire, des exercices gymnastiques, &c. Pour plus de sûreté qu'il ne soit jamais dit aux enfants rien qui froisserait la religion Musulmane, il est permis au "hodja" d'assister aux classes pendant les heures qui sont occupées par le maître Serbe. En cas, si celui-ci se permettrait de faire quelque faute à ce sujet, il sera sévèrement et inévitablement puni.

Enfin, je donne encore un signe de ma grâce et bienveillance que j'ai pour ma population Musulmane. Toutes les affaires judiciaires qui sont en rapport avec la religion Musulmane, comme par exemple les contrats de marriage, les réglements des successions, les legs aux femmes, &c., seront jugées et décidées d'après les dispositions et prescriptions du Chériat.

No. 7*.

Acting Consul Lyall to Earl Granville.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 16. Confidential.)
(Extract.) *Tiflis, October* 14, 1881.

MR. VICE-CONSUL GARDNER reports that much heavy artillery, 8, 10, and 11-inch guns, is being landed at Batoum for the fortifications there.

This artillery is placed in store, while batteries, emplacements, and earth-works are constructed at commanding points, and communication with them so arranged, by means of rail or tramway (ostensibly for building purposes, bringing down stores, material, &c.), that these batteries could be armed in a few hours.

No. 8.

Consul-General Jones to Earl Granville.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 47.) *Philippopoli, October* 29, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the third Session of the Provincial Assembly began on the 24th instant, and I inclose a translation of the Governor-General's Address on this occasion, which, as usual, was delivered in the Bulgarian, Turkish, and Greek languages.

It may be necessary to explain that the Assembly is composed of fifty-six members; of whom ten are such *ex officio*, chiefly the Heads of the religious communities; ten are nominated by the Governor-General; and the remaining thirty-six elected by the constituencies. Of the last two categories, one-half of the Members are renewed every second year, and the elections for this purpose took place in the spring. Of the eighteen constituencies affected, seven chose fresh representatives. Of the five appointed by the Governor-General, three sit in the Assembly for the first time. According to creed, forty-one of the total number are Bulgarian Orthodox, and four Greek, two Bulgarian Catholics, one Bulgarian Protestant, one Armenian, six Mussulmans, and one Jew.

The political principles of the Deputies were not so easily known, and the election of the President was expected with interest as deciding this question.

Between the two parties which compose the Assembly there has been little political difference hitherto, one was in power (that of the Gueshoffs), the other was not. But the alarm and anxiety caused by the *coup d'Etat* in Bulgaria had the effect of uniting the various divisions of the Opposition, and giving it a definitively nationalistic character, which was further developed and strengthened through the counsels and assistance of Karaveloff Slaveicoff and others who had retired into Roumelia when deprived of office in the Principality. Calling attention to the chief part which Russian officers have taken in the subversion of the Bulgarian Constitution, they have not ceased to warn their countrymen here of the perils they are exposed to should they in like manner entrust their military force to Russian hands. So that this question may be said to divide the two parties: are the foreign officers in Roumelia to be retained or dismissed? The Gueshoffs and their party are in favour of the former measure, and their opponents, led by Kaltchoff and Chomakoff, strongly adverse to it.

Russian Agents in the province have all along so conspicuously identified themselves with the Gueshoff party that they cannot avoid being compromised by its defeat, which first happened at the election of the President. This post has been held hitherto by the elder Gueshoff, who on the two previous occasions received forty and thirty votes respectively. The last number was further reduced to twenty-seven on the present occasion, the greater part given by his friends and relatives or members nominated by the Governor. M. Grouëff, moderate Nationalist, got the same number, and Dr. Chomakoff, advanced Nationalist, twenty-four. From among these candidates the Governor-General selected M. Grouëff, on the ground of his having gained the greatest number of independent votes.

On this occasion each Member gives two votes, so that the Nationalists may be held to compose two-thirds of the present Assembly, perhaps more, as their ranks are sure to be increased by deserters from the losing side.

For Vice-Presidents were selected the above-mentioned Dr. Chomakoff and M. Petroff, Conservative. The members of the Permanent Committee will be elected during the coming week, and (it is expected) will be nearly entirely Nationalists. Encouraged by this success, and the general popular sympathy, this party will, no doubt, exert itself to mitigate, as far as it has the power, the burden of Russian tutelage, which is found to press so heavily on the independent action of the province and its national development.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

Inclosure in No. 8.

Address of the Governor-General of Bulgaria on Opening the Third Session of the Provincial Assembly.

Messieurs les Députés,

C'EST avec la joie la plus sincère que je vous vois encore une fois réunis dans cette enceinte où vous êtes appelés pour compléter les mesures nécessaires à faire réaliser les espérances que cette province autonome place en nous et en nos efforts communs.

Multiples que les difficultés qui, lors la première formation de cette province, en obstruaient l'administration régulière.

Grâce toutefois au dévouement et à la confiance d'un peuple paisible et laborieux —de ces sentiments pour ma personne, il me plaît bien d'en prendre note—grâce aussi au concours que l'Assemblée Provinciale et le Comité Permanent m'ont apporté, la plupart de ces difficultés, sinon toutes, ayant été écartées et vaincues, il en est résulté la sécurité, la tranquillité, et l'ordre le plus parfait. Ces avantages sauront, je l'espère, satisfaire tous ceux qui ont à cœur le bien-être de la province, et qui, pour ce qui est de nos actes, ont toujours l'œil ouvert.

Un événement arrivé l'été dernier a porté le trouble dans un de nos districts montagneux, sis sur nos frontières. Grâce toutefois à l'adoption des mesures prises à temps, il n'y a eu ni mal ni aucunes conséquences.

Mon Gouvernement suivant toujours la même ligne de conduite, qui est l'esprit de la réconciliation, le progrès, les tendances et désirs honnêtes du pays, n'est qu'heureux pour les notables améliorations que, dans presque toutes les branches de l'Administration, il a réussi à introduire. Pour tous bienfaits, il n'en est que juste de parler du concours patriotique des employés, qui, quoique de peu d'expérience, ont été, avec quelques exceptions possibles, à mériter la confiance qu'on leur a accordée.

Mais il reste encore beaucoup à faire et beaucoup d'améliorations à introduire à celles déjà réalisées.

Messieurs les Députés,

Un travail lourd vous reste encore à accomplir. Afin de faire couronner l'édifice provincial commencé sous de si heureux auspices, il est nécessaire qu'avec la sécurité qui garantie la propriété, la vie, la liberté du travail, de créer ceux des moyens grandement et impérieusement nécessaires au développement moral et matériel du pays.

Il est grandement nécessaire de concerter et de prendre les mesures qu'il faut pour améliorer l'état financier du pays, il en est de même pour ce qui est de l'agriculture, une des plus grandes ressources des revenus publics.

Avec les lois qui, votées pendant la dernière Session, sont en pleine vigueur, il en est d'autres dont la confection et la votation sont d'une nécessité impérieuse. Parmi ces travaux de législation, un en est le projet de loi pour le Budget 1882-83. Ce projet de loi écartant les sacrifices inutiles, en prévoit celles des dépenses rigoureusement nécessaires pour une bonne Administration.

Le Budget de l'Exercice 1879-80 vous sera soumis afin que vous y donniez votre approbation.

Messieurs les Députés,

Vous avez devant vous une suite de sérieux travaux.

Confiant en votre patriotisme et vos lumières, j'espère que, par votre esprit de concorde et l'amour pour le pays que vous représentez, vous saurez, avec le concours du Gouvernement, concentrer vos efforts et votre intelligence à toutes ces questions dont vous aurez à vous occuper à tour de rôle. L'avenir, comme le présent de notre patrie, n'est qu'étroitement lié avec la bonne solution de toutes ces questions.

Invoquant le secours du Très Haut et sa bénédiction sur vos travaux, je déclare l'ouverture de l'Assemblée Provinciale, troisième Session.

No. 9.

Sir E. Thornton to Earl Granville.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 527.)
St. Petersburgh, October 29, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the "St. Petersburgh Gazette" of the $\frac{17}{29}$th instant states that four young Bulgarians, who had been instructed at the

Odessa Military Academy, and thirty-one pupils of the Cavalry School at Ekaterinoslav, who had finished their course of instruction at that institution, have received commissions as lieutenants in the Bulgarian army.

It is also rumoured that M. Théokharow, the Bulgarian Minister of Justice, who is at present in this capital, has arrived here with the object of studying the legal procedure of this country, and that his Excellency wishes to take back with him a certain number of Russian lawyers, who may be willing to enter the service of the Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD THORNTON.

No. 10.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 952.)
Constantinople, October 29, 1881.

My Lord,

ON the receipt of Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney's despatch No. 30 of the 1st instant, I made a strong representation to the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the prevalence of brigandage in Epirus, and particularly called his Excellency's attention to that portion of Mr. Blakeney's despatch that related to the decapitation of one of the seven school-boys carried off by brigands from the village of Isgar.

His Excellency promised that he would give the matter his most earnest attention, and caused immediate orders to be sent to the local authorities to spare no effort to disperse the numerous bands of brigands, who render life and property so insecure in the interior of Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 11.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 959.)
Constantinople, November 1, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to state that on the receipt of Mr. Consul-General Blunt's despatch No. 95 of the 13th ultimo (a copy of which has been forwarded by that gentleman to your Lordship), on the subject of the persecution to which the Protestant community at Stroumnitza are subjected, at the instigation of the Greek Archbishop at that place, I lost no time in bringing the facts of the case to the notice of the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs.

In reply to my representations, his Excellency promised that he would address a remonstrance to the Greek Patriarchate against the attitude assumed by the Greek clergy towards the native Protestants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 12.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 39.)
Foreign Office, November 9, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE had before me your despatches of September last relative to the discontent with the new order of things which has been manifested by the inhabitants of Dulcigno, and I approve your endeavours to obtain considerate treatment for the Mussulmans of the districts recently annexed to Montenegro, as reported in your despatch No. 107 of the 15th September.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 13.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 72.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 9, 1881.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 148 of the 17th ultimo, inclosing a Report from Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy relative to the continued occupation by Bulgarian immigrants of property in the neighbourhood of Varna belonging to Mussulmans, and the indifference of the local authorities to the complaints of the rightful owners.

I have to instruct you to call the attention of the Bulgarian Government to the state of things described by Mr. Brophy.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 14.

Earl Granville to Mr. Locock.

(No. 48.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 9, 1881.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 129 of the 19th ultimo, inclosing copy of the reply which you have addressed to the Turkish proprietors who complained of the want of attention shown to their representations relative to the application of the Agrarian Law, and I have to express my approval of the terms of your letter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 15.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received November 10.)

(Confidential.)

My Lord, *Prevesa, October* 29, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of my Confidential despatch of to-day to the Earl of Dufferin, relating to the misconduct of regular troops in the district of Zagori, as reported to me by Mr. Consular Agent Kypriotis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure in No. 15.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Confidential.)

My Lord, *Prevesa, October* 29, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Mr. Kypriotis writes to me confidentially on the 12th instant as follows:—

"As a man and two women were proceeding on Friday last from their native village, Mazaraki, to Kato-Suthená, Zagori, with two animals laden with onions for sale, they fell in with seven robbers, who made off with their animals. The former thereupon hastened to Kalmaki and gave information to the regular troops there, and an officer with four men immediately started in pursuit of the robbers, but when they reached a lonely spot, the officer ordered the man to be tied, and the two women were then outraged, first by the officer and then by his men.

"The forty Circassians who were dispatched to Veltista to pursue the brigands who had perpetrated the outrage mentioned in a previous despatch behaved in a worse manner towards the unfortunate peasants than the brigands themselves. The result is that the peasantry frequently abstain from complaining to the authorities against the brigands, because they are afraid that they would have to suffer more from the soldiers."

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 16.

Earl Granville to Mr. Locock.

(No. 49.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 10, 1881.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 127 of the 16th ultimo, reporting your conversation with Prince Milan on the subject of the complaints of the Turkish proprietors in regard to the application of the Agrarian Law, I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government have received with satisfaction His Highness' assurance of the intention of the Servian Government to take upon themselves the payment of the compensation awarded to the landowners by the Commissioners.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 17.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, November 11.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le* 3 *Novembre*, 1881.

IL résulte des informations qui nous parviennent que, contrairement aux dispositions de l'Article XI du Traité de Berlin, non seulement les anciennes forteresses sont maintenues dans la Principauté Bulgare, mais qu'elles sont encore armées d'une manière formidable. Entre autres, le "Leven Tabia" de Roustchouk est pourvu d'une grande quantité d'armes, de munitions de guerre, et de canons Krupp, et on y a construit tout dernièrement une caserne pouvant contenir plus de 400 hommes.

Je vous prie d'attirer sur ce qui précède la plus sérieuse attention du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, et de l'engager à faire à Sophia des représentations énergiques pour amener le Gouvernement Bulgare à la stricte exécution des clauses du dit Article XI.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 18.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 134.)

My Lord, *Salonica, October* 28, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 101 of the 28th August, on the subject of the state of affairs in Upper Albania, and referring to a statement in a letter from a correspondent at Uscup to the effect that Christians in that district were forced to embrace the Mahommedan faith, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copies of a despatch and its inclosure, which I have this day addressed to the Earl of Dufferin, furnishing the result of the inquiries which I have caused to be made into the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 18.

Consul-General Blunt to the Earl of Dufferin.

Salonica, October 28, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the letter of a private correspondent at Uscup, inclosed in my despatch to Earl Granville of the 28th August, a copy of which I forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch of the same date, relative to the statement that Christians in that district were forcibly converted to the Mahommedan faith, I have the honour to inclose extract from a letter which I have received from a

gentleman who has special means of procuring information from Uscup, furnishing the result of the inquiries I asked him to make into the truth of that statement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 18.

Mr. ——— to Consul-General Blunt.

(Extrait.)

Salonique, le 25 Octobre, 1881.

D'APRÈS les renseignements que j'ai pu obtenir d'Uscup, les faits imputés à Idris, fils de Hagi Atta Bey, sont exacts.

La fille, que le Bekdgi du village de Banzani a cherché à convertir, a pu s'échapper et se trouve actuellement cachée dans une maison Chrétienne d'Uscup.

Outre ces faits qui se succèdent dans le Sandjiak d'Uscup, il y en a d'autres. Par exemple, un Turc s'est présenté au village de Blatza et a voulu s'imposer au village comme "Bekdgi" (garde champêtre); le Tchorbadji ayant refusé de le reconnaître, un jour qu'il se trouva à son moulin il fut étranglé; ses parents n'osent se plaindre aux autorités de peur de représailles.

À Dratzovo, à 3 heures de distance d'Uscup, Idris Bey se présenta chez Djedjo, chez qui il resta longtemps; il lui demanda sa fille et Djedjo dut la lui donner, cédant à l'intimidation, et n'ose se plaindre aux autorités de peur d'être maltraité par lui. (Cette fille a été violée.)

No. 19.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 135.)

My Lord,

Salonica, October 20, 1881.

WITH reference to my Report No. 132 of the 24th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a translated copy of an official telegram which the Governor-General of Salonica has received from Dervish Pasha on the subject of the pacification of Dibra.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 19.

Dervish Pasha to the Governor-General of Salonica.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.)

Prisrend, October 23, 1881.

THE inhabitants of the Nahiayés of Kaliss, Loussiné, and Bila, in the Caza of Ljuma, whose unruly and lawless condition has been a matter of notoriety for some time past, have, by an act of special favour and clemency on the part of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, just been allowed to return to their allegiance and become loyal subjects.

In proof of this they had unanimously consented to allow the census to be taken, to satisfy all equitable financial demands, to settle blood feuds by compromise, in short, to carry out all other similar reforms with all due submission.

Indeed, they have begun to put their wise resolves into execution by means of the officials. They also promise not to harbour rebels amongst them. In fact, the other day some ruffians belonging to this category having opened fire upon the wood-cutters of the Imperial forces they promptly overtook them, and after razing to the ground the houses of Lipna (their village) seized them as well as their families, and have promised to hand them over to the Government that they may be removed to some distant place.

Besides this they undertake to build seven Khans on the highway running from Prisrend to Dibra at such places as shall be pointed out to them, and so ensure the safety of travellers in the future.

They have given the Government an official document confirmatory of these engagements on their part.

I wish to represent that the adoption of every measure of reform in the manner above described, and the promptitude with which the first steps have taken to put them in execution on the part of a people who for years have pursued a line of conduct directly the reverse, is a piece of rare good fortune to be attributed solely to the wisdom of the Imperial policy.

I moreover have to announce that some persons have arrived in Lower Dibra for the purpose of promoting the reforms in the fiscal administration of the country.

No. 20.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 136.)

My Lord,

Salonica, October 29, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 126 of the 21st instant, on the subject of an outrage perpetrated at Colivalar, a farm of Messrs. Robert Abbott and Sons, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copies of a despatch, and its inclosure, which I have this day addressed to the Earl of Dufferin reporting the result of an inquiry instituted by the authorities into the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 20.

Consul-General Blunt to the Earl of Dufferin.

Salonica, October 29, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 21st instant, on the subject of an outrage perpetrated at Colivalar, a farm owned by Messrs. Robert Abbott and Sons, British subjects established at Salonica, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the Governor-General has instituted an inquiry into the matter.

The inclosed is a translated copy of the letter which I have received from his Excellency acquainting me with the result of the inquiry, and I now learn from Messrs. Abbott that two of the individuals implicated in the outrage have been apprehended and brought to Salonica to be tried before the local Criminal Court.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 20.

The Governor-General of Salonica to Consul-General Blunt.

Salonica, October 23, 1881.

(Translation.)

I HAVE received your official note of the 21st instant relative to the incident which has occurred at Messrs. Robert Abbott and Sons' farm at Colivalar.

According to the Report handed in by Abdi Bey, Colonel of the zaptieh force of the vilayet, who was officially deputed to proceed to the spot and investigate the matter, the perpetrators of this outrage are not members of "Comitas," an opinion which is indicated in your note, but merely inhabitants of Karasoulé, identified as follows:—

Mustapha ben Mehemet, watchman, stationed at sentry-box No. 14, on the upper side of the Ahmadli Railway-station, Kiuprullili Suleiman ben Hassan, acting as armed escort and guard at the same station, and three others whose names are not known. It appears that these men broke into the house of Simsor Metro at the farm at Colivalar, whom they first bound and then beat. They then stole the upper part of a silver girdle belonging to his daughter Maro as well as a gold "mahmoudié" and eight small gold coins. They then wounded a certain Starko in several places and stripped him of his coat, and finally they stole from a tailor, Georghi by name, seven pairs of coloured pantaloons, eight pelisses, four waistcoats, two bales of red prints,

six bales of calico, from 200 to 300 piastres in money, and one or two guns. As both these men, the watchman and the cavass, deny having committed the robbery in question, the matter has been referred to the Public Prosecutor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HASSAN TAHSIN, *Vali of Salonica.*

No. 21.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 137.)
My Lord,

Salonica, October 30, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the two Albanian Chiefs Ali Pasha, of Gusinjé, and Hassan, Pasha, of Kalkandelen, who were recently appointed: the first Mutessarif of Ipek, and the second Mutessarif of Prisrend, arrived here by yesterday's train from Useup, and leave to-day for the capital, for the purpose of doing homage to His Majesty the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 22.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received November 14.)

E
(No. 151.)
My Lord,

Sophia, October 31, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report that M. Esarcos, the Roumanian Minister at Athens, has paid a visit to Sophia, on his way to his post. It was believed that M. Esarcos had been charged to treat the question of the Danube navigation with the Bulgarian Government, but his credentials consisted only of a letter to the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, expressing the wish of the Roumanian Government to be on friendly terms with Bulgaria.

M. Esarcos, who leaves Sophia to-day, was received by the Prince of Bulgaria, but he did not allude to any question pending between the two Governments, and confined himself to polite formalities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 23.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 968.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, November 4, 1881.

MR. CONSUL-GENERAL BLUNT has reported to me, in his despatch No. 104 of the 28th ultimo (copy of which he has transmitted to your Lordship), that the information sent to him by a private correspondent at Useup (forwarded to your Lordship in his despatch No. 101 of the 25th August last), as to the forcible conversion of Christians to Mahommedanism, has been confirmed. I have, consequently, thought it my duty to bring the facts mentioned by Mr. Blunt to the notice of the Sublime Porte, and to impress upon it that, if such cases of forcible conversion to Mahommedanism attract public attention in England, they will cause a great deal of excitement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 24.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 972.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, November 8, 1881.

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs wishes me to call your Lordship's attention to the fact that not only are the old fortifications of Batoum left standing, but new ones

are being constructed within a short distance of the town—a proceeding which his Excellency maintains is contrary to the spirit and Protocols of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 25.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 14, 8 A.M.)

(No. 420.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, November 13, 1881, 12·45 A.M.

A REPORT has reached me from a fairly trustworthy source, though I have not had time to verify it, that it is the intention of the Turks to dismantle Erzeroum, and to erect Erzinghian into a first-class fortress.

This alleged intention seems to connect itself with a rumour which has been lately current, but to which I am not disposed to give credence, that the Porte would not be unwilling to settle the Russian war claims by a further cession of territory on the Armenian frontier. The attitude and language of the Russian Ambassador are quite inconsistent with the foregoing supposition.

No. 26.

Consul Sandwith to Earl Granville.—(Received November 16.)

(No. 55.)
My Lord,

Canea, Crete, November 5, 1881.

I HAD the honour in my despatch No. 50 of the 15th ultimo to inform your Lordship that the Grand Vizier had telegraphed to the Governor-General of this island the consent of the Porte to the cession of half of the Customs dues to meet the expenses of the Local Administration, and that an Iradé would shortly be issued giving effect to the cession.

The Administration, standing in great need of money for the payment of current expenses, Photindes Pasha has more than once urged the Porte to hasten the issue of the promised Iradé. The result of his Excellency's solicitations has been the procuring of an order from the Porte for the appropriation of one-quarter of the Customs dues until the Iradé is published. This limitation of the original grant creates a suspicion that the forthcoming Iradé will only sanction the cession of a quarter instead of a half of the Customs, which would be a violation of Article 13 of the Firman of 1878.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 27.

Earl Granville to Mr. Ford.

(No. 165.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, November 17, 1881.

I HAVE to call your attention to the accompanying copy of a letter which I have received from Mr. Ogle, suggesting that the time has now arrived when a fresh inquiry may be held into the circumstances attending the death of his son, near Volo, in March 1878. I inclose the papers which were laid before Parliament at the time, together with a printed copy of the correspondence which has taken place subsequently relative to this event.

It will be remembered that Mr. Charles Ogle, who was acting as correspondent for the "Times" during the disturbances on the Turco-Greek frontier in the spring of 1878, was reported by the Turkish authorities to have been killed at an engagement at Macrinitza on the 20th March, whilst fighting on the side of the insurgents; whereas statements from other sources tended to show that he was seen after the battle, in which he had not taken an active part, and was murdered on the following day, at the supposed instigation of a local official, who feared the exposure of certain proceedings sanctioned by him, which had excited Mr. Ogle's indignation.

The evidence taken by a Joint Commission of Inquiry held at Volo, upon which

Her Majesty's Government was represented by Mr. Consul-General Fawcett, and the Turkish Government by Redjeb Pasha, Governor of Thessaly, was not such as to justify the assumption that Mr. Ogle was assassinated, and the conclusion was formed that he met his death whilst retreating with the insurgents; but although a notice was published inviting witnesses to appear without fear of molestation, there is reason to believe that many Greeks who had given important evidence privately on the other side were deterred from appearing before the Commission through dread of incurring the vengeance of those whom they denounced. The names of these witnesses were communicated by Mr. Ogle's father, in his letter of the 13th July, 1878, to Her Majesty's late Government, who pledged themselves in Parliament to demand a fresh inquiry whenever the state of the country should be such as to enable all the Greek witnesses to come forward without fear. Since that date, despatches have frequently been addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, both by my predecessors and myself, with a view to ascertain whether circumstances would permit of the reopening of the investigation, but the disturbed condition of the district has hitherto rendered its renewal impossible. The country in question will, however, be soon completely incorporated into the Kingdom of Greece, and the opportunity would seem to present itself for enabling Her Majesty's Government to fulfil their promise to Mr. Ogle. I have accordingly to instruct you to confer with M. Coumoundouros on the subject, and to inform me of his views as to the time when the inquiry might take place, and the form which it should assume.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Inclosure in No. 27.

Mr. Ogle to Earl Granville.

My Lord, *Bradbourne St. Clere, Sevenoaks, November* 4, 1881.

IN reply to my last letter to your Lordship, I received the assurance that the promise to hold a fresh inquiry concerning my son's violent death should be taken into consideration.

Now that greater questions are happily disposed of, I trust that Her Majesty's Ministers may determine that one sequel of their prosperous proceedings in Epirus and Thessaly shall be the institution of the promised inquiry at Volo.

A perusal of the inclosed correspondence would conveniently revive the recollection of important particulars in the case.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN OGLE.

No. 28.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 763.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, November* 17, 1881.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 932 of the 21st ultimo, reporting what has passed between your Excellency and Assim Pasha upon the subject of brigandage in Macedonia, and the measures necessary for its suppression, as described by Her Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica; and I approve your Excellency's action in calling upon Her Majesty's Agent at Sophia for his opinion upon the remarks made by Assim Pasha as to the responsibility of the Bulgarian Government for the state of affairs complained of.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 29.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 77.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 18, 1881.

I INCLOSE copy of a note from Assim Pasha, which has been communicated to me by the Turkish Ambassador, complaining of the attitude adopted by the Bulgarian

* Extract from "Newcastle Daily Journal" (about November 1).

authorities in their official relations with the Porte;* and I have to request you to furnish me with your observations upon this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 30.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 40.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 18, 1881.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 124 of the 24th ultimo, inclosing a copy of the Edict issued by the Prince of Montenegro, embodying the rights and obligations of His Highness' Mussulman subjects.

I have to express the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the liberal tone of this document.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 31.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.†

(No. 492.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 20, 1881, 11·30 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 430 of the 18th, M. Gennadius has urgently represented case of Greek post-offices.

Do what you can to bring about an amicable understanding. The contention of the Porte to retain a post-office at Larissa was plainly inconsistent with evacuation of the province, and it seems very undesirable that ill-feeling should be aroused by this form of retaliation on a matter of such trifling importance to Turkey, when all appeared to promise a future good understanding between the two Powers.

No. 32.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 987.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 10, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 932 of the 20th October, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Sophia, giving the answer of the Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Affairs to Assim Pasha's statement, that the prevalence of brigandage in some districts to the north of Salonica was due to the connivance of the Bulgarian authorities, who allowed Bulgarian brigand bands when pursued by Turkish troops to enter the Principality unmolested.

I have communicated the substance of Mr. Lascelles' despatch to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 32.

Mr. Lascelles to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Sophia, November* 5, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 22nd ultimo, inclosing a copy of a despatch to Lord Granville on the subject of brigandage in Macedonia.

I have called the attention of Mr. Voulcovitch to the statement made to your Excellency by Assim Pasha, that the prevalence of brigandage in some districts to the north of Salonica is due to the connivance of the Bulgarian frontier authorities, who

* No. 1.

† Repeated to Athens with the Earl of Dufferin's No. 430.

allow Bulgarian brigand bands, when pursued by Ottoman troops, to enter the Principality unmolested.

Mr. Voulcovitch said that since he had been in office, no case had occurred of Macedonian brigands taking refuge in Bulgarian territory, and he believed that none had taken place for more than a year. He said that as no means of official communication existed between the Principality and the Porte, it was impossible to come to an arrangement, which would otherwise have been an easy matter, with regard to the measures to be taken on the frontier in order to prevent the possibility of brigands taking refuge in Bulgaria.

In my despatch to Lord Granville of the 21st September last, I reported that Nihad Pasha had communicated to me the various proposals that had been made on this subject, and had informed me that the refusal of Mr. Voulcovitch to carry on negotiations with him would have the effect of preventing an arrangement being come to.

Nihad Pasha has now informed me that he is preparing a detailed Report upon the subject, which he has kindly promised to communicate to me as soon as he shall have finished it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 33.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 1003.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 15, 1881.*

I ACQUAINTED the Prime Minister to-day with the contents of your Lordship's despatch No. 737 of the 2nd instant relative to the unsatisfactory condition of Albania, and, fortified by the series of able communications on the same subject which I have had the advantage of receiving from Mr. Kirby Green, I endeavoured to the utmost of my power to impress on his Highness the great danger which would ensue if the warnings thus conveyed to the Porte were not laid to heart.

His Highness expressed himself very grateful for the information and for the advice thus tendered to him, and desired me to convey to your Lordship his very best thanks.

It was evident that the intimation of your Lordship's opinion made a very considerable impression upon the Prime Minister. I fear, however, that it will be difficult to persuade the Sultan that Dervish Pasha's régime leaves anything to be desired. Dervish Pasha has restored His Majesty's authority, has provided his army with soldiers, and sends money to Constantinople, which are the three principal achievements the Sultan expects his Governors to accomplish.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 34.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 1004.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 15, 1881.*

I HAVE been informed by Baker Pasha that the only three Christian officers in the gendarmerie who are not Englishmen have been dismissed, one being a Colonel of twenty years' standing.

As your Lordship is aware, an Imperial Iradé was issued some eighteen months ago, declaring that no Christian officer in the gendarmerie should rise above the rank of sergeant, and it is upon this pretence that the persons I refer to have been so harshly dealt with. The Minister for War has, I believe, intimated to them that if they choose they may be re-enrolled in the regular army.

On learning these facts I repaired to the Porte, and remonstrated with Said Pasha on the folly of the contemplated act.

He told me that no one had opposed it more strenuously than himself, which I know to be the case, but that, like some European Monarchs, the Sultan considered the army to be within his special jurisdiction, and neither consulted his Civil Ministers in regard to it nor suffered their interference.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 35.

Mr. Ford to Earl Granville.—(Received November 22, 8 A.M.)

(No. 111.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, November 21, 1881, 2·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 167, Greek Government has strongly urged their Representative at Constantinople to protest against the action of the Porte in the Post Office question. They telegraphed to him last Saturday in the following terms:—

"The Greek Government cannot consent to having their post-offices closed in Turkey unless such measure should be generally applied to the other post-offices existing in Turkey of other European Powers."

I should add that Greece claims under the provisions of her Treaty of Commerce with Turkey dated the 27th March, 1855, to be treated on a footing of the most favoured nation.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 36.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 22, 11 A.M.)

(No. 432.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 22, 1881, 10·10 A.M.*

REPETITION of telegram from Vice-Consul Warlow:—

"(Very Confidential.)

"Ahmet Vefyk Pasha to-day told me that the Sultan had actually prepared Firman appointing him Prime Minister and Grand Vizier, which appointment he positively refused, except on his own conditions, which include assembly of Parliament. Said Pasha ignorant of this affair. Particulars by post."

No. 37.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 125.)
My Lord, *Scutari, November 7, 1881.*

WITH reference to Sir Alfred Sandison's Memorandum of the 22nd September last, transmitted in Lord Dufferin's despatch No. 833 of the 25th of the same month, and a copy of which your Lordship has done me the honour to communicate to me, I think it only fair towards Prenk Bib Doda that I should once more meet Assim Pasha's insinuations against the Mirdite Chieftain by maintaining the correctness of the tenour of my Report No. 35 of the 30th August last to Lord Dufferin (see despatch No. 163 of the 30th August), and by which I wished to explain that whatever Prenk Bib Doda may have done with reference to the resistance against the April Convention and the Dulcigno arrangement was at the instigation and under the direct control of the Representatives of the Sultan's authority in Scutari.

It must, however, be fully admitted that it is "foolish" of Prenk Bib Doda wishing to return to Mirdita as long as it is found expedient to maintain Dervish Pasha as High Commissioner in Albania, for the latter has, on each of the four or five times that he has been employed in this country, pursued a policy of persecution against the Mirdites and the other Christian semi-independent organizations—a policy which he has slightly diversified on the present occasion by extending his oppression to influential native Mahommedans.

It can hardly be doubted that the longer the Porte evinces its distrust in the Albanians, and allows Dervish Pasha to continue his system of behaving as the conqueror of a newly-subjected country, the more surely will the Chiefs and their people embrace the first favourable opportunity of emancipating themselves from a domination which no amount of submission appears capable of mitigating, and which is apparently maintained with no intention of ulterior modification or improvement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 38.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, November 23.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 15 Novembre*, 1881.

J'AI reçu la dépêche responsive que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser le 16 Septembre dernier, relativement à la question des propriétés des Lieux Saints d'Orient sises en Roumanie.

Aucune suite n'ayant été donnée jusqu'ici à cette affaire, je prie votre Excellence de revenir à la charge. Nous espérons que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique voudra bien intervenir auprès du Cabinet de Bucharest, afin qu'il soit donné satisfaction aux légitimes réclamations des Saints-Lieux.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 39.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, November 23.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 17 Novembre*, 1881.

D'APRÈS les rapports que nous recevons de Sophia, les travaux de la Commission Turco-Bulgare se heurtent à des difficultés presque insurmontables; nos Commissaires rencontrent dans l'accomplissement de leur mandat une opposition systématique et des prétentions injustifiables.

A propos des propriétés de l'État revendiquées par la Sublime Porte en vertu de l'Article XII du Traité de Berlin, les Délégués Bulgares ont soulevé une question d'interprétation qui a rendu toute entente impossible. Dans leur désir de faire triompher leurs idées négatives, ils ont été jusqu'à vouloir subordonner l'exécution des stipulations du dit Traité aux décisions des Tribunaux de la Principauté; ce serait à ces derniers de déterminer les propriétés que le Gouvernement Impérial est en droit de revendiquer.

De telles prétentions se passent de tout commentaire; un simple énoncé suffit pour en dévoiler le but et la portée; nous nous bornons donc à constater que, par suite des obstacles de cette nature soulevés dès le début, plus de vingt et un mois se sont écoulés sans aucun résultat pratique. Il y a d'autant plus lieu de nous en préoccuper que, d'après toutes les apparences, la Commission aura à lutter contre les mêmes difficultés dans les autres questions à elle dévolues.

Je vous prie de signaler cet état de choses au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique. Vous voudrez bien vous appesantir sur les préjudices considérables qui en résultent pour le Gouvernement Impérial, et vous attacher à convaincre M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Britannique de la nécessité de dégager l'action de la Commission des entraves qui l'entourent. Nous ne doutons point que son Excellence ne veuille bien reconnaître dans ses sentiments d'équité la justesse de nos observations et faire faire à Sophia des représentations propres à amener le Gouvernement Bulgare à prescrire à ses Commissaires de cesser leur opposition systématique.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 40.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 702.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 23*, 1881.

MUSURUS PASHA left with me to-day the despatch from the Porte of which a copy is inclosed, expressing a hope that Her Majesty's Government would endeavour to induce the Roumanian Government to satisfy the claims of the Turkish Government in regard to the Holy Places.*

* No. 38.

I informed his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government would be ready to support a proposal for referring the question to arbitration if the other Powers agreed to do so.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 41.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 781.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 24*, 1881.

IN your despatch No. 972 of the 8th instant you report that Assim Pasha wished my attention to be called to the fact that fortifications were being erected at Batoum. I have to request your Excellency to inform me whether you are aware of a similar representation having been made to the other Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople, and of the reply which they have returned to the Turkish Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

P.S.—I inclose an extract from a despatch which I have received from the Acting Consul at Tiflis with reference to this subject.*

G.

No. 42.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 78.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 24*, 1881.

I INCLOSE copy of a despatch addressed to the Turkish Ambassador by his Government, stating that the Bulgarian fortresses are not only still standing, but have been powerfully armed, and that the fortress at Rustchuk has been mounted with Krupp guns.† I have to request you to inquire into the condition of these places, and to furnish me with a report on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 43.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 79.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 24*, 1881.

I AM informed by the Dutch Minister at this Court that there is a question in Bulgaria of subjecting Dutch-protected subjects to military service, and that the Dutch Representative at Sophia has protested against such a proceeding.

Count Bylandt has been instructed by his Government to state that they do not ask for any special advantages, but merely that their subjects should not be placed on a different footing to those of other nations, so long as no general arrangement on the question is arrived at, as contemplated by the Treaty of Berlin, and he was therefore to request that Her Majesty's Government would give their support to the protest referred to.

I accordingly authorize you to use your good offices with the Bulgarian Government in any discussion on this point which may arise between them and the Dutch Representative.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* No. 7.

† No. 17.

No. 44.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 144.)
My Lord, *Salonica, November 8, 1881.*

DERVISH PASHA has addressed a Circular Instruction to the provincial, civil, and military authorities, directing them to seize and send to his head-quarters at Dibra all Albanian deserters from the Imperial army.

I am assured that large numbers of these deserters are roaming about in the Vilayets of Monastir and Cossova; and a paragraph in the "Cossova Gazette," of which I inclose a translation, states that some 300 or 400 of them have been apprehended in the Sandjak of Uscup.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT

Inclosure in No. 44.

Translation of a Paragraph from the "Cossova Gazette."

Pristina, October 25, 1881.

WE are informed that his Excellency Dervish Pasha, with the benevolent object in view of ensuring public security, has recently given orders to the effect that none of the inhabitants of the district of Dibra should be allowed to go from one place to another without a permit. On receiving these orders it appears that Salih Effendi, Major and Chief of the Police of Uscup, making every effort to perform efficiently this important duty, has, up to the present date, compelled as many as seventy or eighty persons, who had come to Uscup from some neighbouring districts, intending to continue their journey to their destination, but who were unable to prove their identity, to return to the place whence they came.

This zealous and energetic officer has also strained every nerve in the pursuit of deserters from the Imperial forces, they, *i.e.*, the soldiers, having received strict orders to join their respective battalions, and also in putting restraint on some 300 or 400 of those who disobeyed these orders.

Such prompt and energetic behaviour is worthy of all praise and approbation.

No. 45.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 765.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 25, 1881.*

HER Majesty's Government cannot leave without remark the complaints which the Turkish Prime Minister preferred to your Excellency, as reported in your despatch No. 905 of the 13th ultimo, with regard to the execution of the Treaty of Berlin. He said that in spite of the Sultan having made every sacrifice to fulfil the obligations imposed upon him, the representations of the Ottoman Ambassadors abroad in regard to those portions of the Treaty which were favourable to Turkey were treated with great indifference; and he added that it must not be a matter of surprise if there should be some hesitation on the part of His Majesty hereafter in meeting the wishes of the friendly Powers with a good grace.

Her Majesty's Government can scarcely believe that the Prime Minister spoke with any serious intention in using this language. If your Excellency thinks that the Sultan is really under any such impressions, it would be well that you should take an opportunity of dispelling them, as you can have no difficulty in doing.

It is notorious that in nearly every instance the delay in the execution of the provisions of the Treaty rests with the Porte, and not with Her Majesty's Government or the other Powers. Thus, the settlement of the Bulgarian tribute was delayed for months by the failure of the Sultan to issue the necessary Iradé for the confirmation of the Acts for the delimitation of the frontier, and still continues postponed in consequence of the Porte having taken no active steps to procure an agreement with the Powers as required by the IXth Article of the Treaty. The Porte has in like manner omitted to make any proposals for the settlement of the proportion of the

Public Debt to be borne by Servia under the XLIInd Article, while the proportion to be borne by Montenegro is delayed by the procrastination of the Porte in dealing with the trifling adjustment of boundary which remains to be determined north of the Lake of Scutari.

It is not easy to see what special interest the Porte can have in the demolition of the fortresses on the Danube. The Treaty Article states that this was determined at the Congress "in order to increase the guarantees which assure the freedom of navigation on the Danube," and in this navigation it happens that Great Britain has the largest share. In fact, this question of the demolition of the fortresses has much greater interests for other Powers than it can have for Turkey, who is little likely to be ever again concerned with them.

Her Majesty's Government cannot certainly be accused of laxity in regard to the welfare of the Mussulman inhabitants in Servia and Bulgaria, as they have used all their influence, and have made repeated representations in their favour, and, according to the last report, the claims of the Servian Mussulmans were being settled in a satisfactory manner. The case is more difficult in Bulgaria, and is being further delayed and complicated by the formalities upon which the Porte is insisting in its correspondence with the Bulgarian Government.

Your Excellency might point out to the Prime Minister that it is for the Porte to take the initiative in making proposals in regard to the Articles of the Treaty in which it considers that Turkey is interested, whereas Her Majesty's Government and the other Powers have only been able hitherto to get the Porte to take any action at all after continued pressure, and as though the execution of the Treaty were a favour to themselves, instead of being, as it is, urgently necessary for the establishment of peace and good order throughout the Ottoman Empire; and your Excellency can invite his Highness to specify any reasonable project which Her Majesty's Government have ever refused or discouraged.

Her Majesty's Government would at the same time deprecate in the strongest manner these references to the past, which, in regard to many points, can only lead to controversial correspondence of a painful character.

I leave it to your Excellency's discretion to use the observations in this despatch according to time and circumstance.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 46.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 793.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 25, 1881.*

MUSURUS PASHA communicated to me on the 11th instant a copy of a despatch from the Porte, stating that, according to information which had reached them, the fortresses in Bulgaria, which should have been destroyed in accordance with the XIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, were still maintained, and had been armed with heavy guns.

His Excellency spoke to me to-day on the subject, and I informed him that Mr. Lascelles had been instructed to make inquiry and report as to the state of the fortresses.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 47.

E *M. Mavinovich to Earl Granville.—(Received November 26.)*

Paris, le 25 Novembre, 1881.

M. le Comte,

JE suis chargé par mon Gouvernement de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence, à titre d'information, les pièces ci-incluses, se rapportant aux négociations du Cabinet de Belgrade avec la Porte Ottomane concernant (1) l'application de la Loi Agraire; (2) le rapatriement des Albanais.

J'ose espérer, M. le Comte, que ces documents feront ressortir aux yeux de votre Excellence l'esprit d'équité et d'humanité dont le Gouvernement Serbe fait preuve

dans cette circonstance, ainsi que les sentiments de conciliation qu'il apporte dans ses rapports avec la Sublime Porte.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) J. MARINOVICH.

Inclosure 1 in *No.* 47.

M. Pirotchanatz to M. Marinovich.

(Traduction.)
M. le Ministre, *Le* $\frac{2}{14}$ *Novembre*, 1881.

J'AI l'honneur de vous communiquer la copie d'une note que j'ai adressée le 28 Octobre dernier au Ministre de Turquie à Belgrade, au sujet du rapatriement des Albanais, anciens habitants des provinces annexées à la Serbie.

Le Gouvernement du Prince a cru bon de prendre initiative dans cette question et de se déclarer prêt à entreprendre de son côté tout ce que les considérations d'équité et du maintien d'ordre à nos frontières, ainsi que son désir de contribuer aux bons rapports avec la Porte Ottomane, pouvaient lui conseiller.

Je vous envoie en même temps la copie d'une dépêche que j'ai adressée à notre Ministre à Constantinople concernant l'application de la Loi Agraire dans les provinces annexées.

Comme vous vous en convaincrez par la lecture de cette dépêche, le Gouvernement du Prince a fait tout ce qui a été dans son pouvoir pour rendre le réglement et la liquidation des rapports entre les anciens Seigneurs et les détenteurs de leurs terres aussi équitables que possible. Au surplus, le Gouvernement ne s'est pas borné à l'exécution équitable de la Loi Agraire; il s'est décidé à en étendre les avantages au profit des Musulmans, anciens Seigneurs, et à cet effet il va demander à l'Assemblée Nationale, dans sa prochaine Session, l'autorisation de se procurer les moyens nécessaires pour payer aux Musulmans de suite la totalité de l'indemnité qui leur est due, ce qui fera modifier en leur faveur la Loi Agraire dans une de ses dispositions les plus essentielles et qui a pu leur paraître la plus onéreuse.

J'espère, M. le Ministre, que cette conduite du Gouvernement Serbe ne manquera pas de faire ressortir aux yeux du Gouvernement de la Reine les sentiments de justice et d'humanité dont nous ne cessons pas de nous inspirer dans l'application de la Loi Agraire. Dans cet espoir je vous autorise à communiquer à M. le Principal Secrétaire d'État de la Reine, à titre d'information, cette dépêche et ses annexes.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) PIROTCHANATZ.

Inclosure 2 in *No.* 47.

M. Pirotchanatz to the Turkish Minister at Belgrade.

M. le Ministre, *Le* 28 *Octobre*, 1881.

VOTRE prédécesseur a bien voulu adresser au Gouvernement de Son Altesse, à la date du $\frac{7}{19}$ Août, 1879, une note pour réclamer au nom du Gouvernement Impérial, en faveur des Albanais émigrés des territoires que le Traité de Berlin a réunis à la Serbie, l'autorisation de rentrer dans leurs foyers, le respect de leurs droits, et le libre exercice de leur culte.

Le Gouvernement Princier a répondu à cette demande par une dépêche du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères en date du $\frac{3}{15}$ Septembre, 1879, adressée au Représentant de Son Altesse à Constantinople, et exposant les conditions qu'il croyait devoir mettre au rapatriement des Albanais.

Comme la Sublime Porte n'a ni adhéré à la proposition du Gouvernement Princier, ni fait connaître ses objections aux conditions formulées, la question est restée sans solution et un petit nombre seulement de familles Albanaises, profitant de la faculté donnée, sont revenues prendre possession de leurs biens.

Animé de sentiments d'humanité ainsi que du désir de voir régner l'ordre sur une partie de la frontière où il est fréquemment troublé par des incursions, le Gouvernement de Son Altesse est prêt à faire tout ce qui dépend de lui pour arriver au réglement définitif de cette question, tout en prouvant une fois de plus combien il a à cœur le maintien des bons rapports avec le Gouvernement Impérial.

Je prie donc votre Excellence de communiquer à la Sublime Porte le désir du

Gouvernement Princier, et de bien vouloir interposer vos bienveillants offices afin que la question du rapatriement des Albanais soit réglée d'une manière équitable et que les autorités Impériales y apportent de leur côté tout le concours possible.

Le Gouvernement de Son Altesse ne subordonne la rentrée des Albanais à aucune autre condition que celle d'en être avisé préalablement afin de pouvoir prendre les mesures nécessaires au maintien de l'ordre et de la tranquillité.

Il va de soi qu'en rentrant dans leurs demeures les Albanais acquerront par le seul fait de leur rapatriement la qualité de citoyens Serbes, qu'ils jouiront des mêmes droits que les autres ressortissants du pays, mais seront aussi assujettis aux mêmes devoirs civils et politiques que ces derniers.

Quant au libre exercice de leur culte, il leur est garanti par la Constitution de la Principauté.

Les biens abandonnés par les émigrés leur seront restitués immédiatement dans l'état où ils se trouvent aujourd'hui.

Dans le cas où leurs terres seraient occupées par des colons et que les Albanais tiendraient à rentrer dans leur possession, le Gouvernement se chargerait de dédommager les nouveaux occupants en leur assignant d'autres terres en échange de celles qu'ils auraient dû céder aux anciens propriétaires. Si toutefois ils le préfèrent, les Albanais recevront en échange de leurs anciennes propriétés une étendue de terres égale à celle qu'ils possédaient et de la même qualité.

Quoiqu'il en soit, il ne pourra dans aucun cas être question de dédommagement d'autre nature à accorder par le Gouvernement.

L'empressement et le bon vouloir dont fait preuve le Cabinet de Son Altesse en vue du réglement d'une question qui a été l'objet de fréquentes préoccupations des deux Gouvernements, nous autorise à attendre de la part des autorités Impériales le même traitement en faveur des émigrés qui se trouvent actuellement sur le territoire de la Principauté et qui désireraient retourner dans leur pays.

J'ai lieu d'espérer que la Sublime Porte accédera à la proposition équitable qui lui est faite par le Gouvernement de Son Altesse, et dans l'attente d'une réponse favorable, je saisis, &c.

(Signé) PIROTCHANATZ.

Inclosure 3 in *No.* 47.

M. Pirotchanatz to the Servian Minister at Constantinople.

Le 31 *Octobre*, 1881.

M. le Ministre,

LORS de mon intérim au Département des Affaires Étrangères, j'ai cherché par mes dépêches du 21 Juillet dernier et du 17 Août dernier, à vous faire connaître d'une manière complète les vues du Gouvernement de Son Altesse relativement aux questions que pourrait faire naître l'application de notre Loi Agraire dans les territoires réunis à la Serbie. Je puis donc me dispenser d'en reprendre aujourd'hui l'exposé détaillé.

En exécution de la Loi Agraire, des Commissions sont appelées à régler les rapports entre les Seigneurs ou propriétaires d'une certaine catégorie de terres, et les cultivateurs établis sur ces terres depuis longtemps. Or, les Commissions qui travaillent depuis deux ans au réglement de ces questions se sont heurtées à une double difficulté, fort naturelle du reste.

Comme d'après la Loi Agraire la compétence de ces Commissions se borne à l'évaluation du dédommagement à allouer aux propriétaires, il est arrivé assez fréquemment que ces derniers se sont plaints de la faiblesse de l'indemnité adjugée, et que les cultivateurs ont protesté contre le prix du rachat qui leur paraissait trop élevé. Ces réclamations ont été même souvent portées simultanément par les deux parties devant les Ministères compétents, dont l'intervention était invoquée pour modifier les décisions de la Commission.

Animé de l'esprit d'une stricte justice, le Gouvernement Princier a rectifié le travail des Commissions partout où la loi lui en donnait le pouvoir et où il lui a semblé qu'il y avait lieu de le faire. Dans le but même de parvenir au réglement le plus équitable possible des rapports agraires, le Gouvernement n'a pas hésité à envoyer l'été dernier un Commissaire Spécial chargé d'examiner tous les cas qui avaient donné lieu à des réclamations, et de s'assurer si le travail des Commissions avait toujours été conforme aux prescriptions de la loi. Partout où quelque rectification a paru justifiée, le Gouvernement s'y est prêté avec le meilleur vouloir.

Comme il s'était produit aussi de la part de Musulmans possédant en Serbie des propriétés qu'ils n'avaient pas administrées eux-mêmes dans les derniers temps parce qu'il ne se trouvaient pas dans le pays, des plaintes portant sur ce que les revenus de ces biens ne leur avaient pas été remis, le Ministre des Finances a ordonné immédiatement aux autorités partout où elles avaient recueilli de semblables revenus de les restituer aux ayants droit moyennant déduction de 5 pour cent à titre de frais d'administration.

Mais le Gouvernement de Son Altesse ne s'en est pas tenu là.

La Loi Agraire détermine les délais que les Commissions Agraires peuvent assigner aux cultivateurs pour le paiement du prix de rachat. Prenant en considérant les propriétaires eux-mêmes et les circonstances où ils se trouvent aujourd'hui, il nous a semblé que cette prescription de la loi était fort lourde pour les propriétaires, qui ont à attendre longtemps la rentrée de leurs allocations, et qu'elle n'était pas moins onéreuse pour les cultivateurs qui, dans ces contrées, sont excessivement pauvres.

Antérieurement déjà, je vous avais fait connaître mon intention de rechercher un mode plus pratique de faire rentrer les propriétaires en possession des sommes allouées et de faciliter en même temps aux cultivateurs leur libération. Aujourd'hui je suis en mesure de vous informer que, bien qu'il ne s'agisse pas d'une somme insignifiante pour nos finances, à en juger d'après le chiffre total donné par une estimation superficielle, le Gouvernement de Son Altesse a décidé de demander à la prochaine Session de l'Assemblée Nationale l'autorisation de contracter à cet effet un emprunt.

Si la représentation nationale adhère à la proposition du Gouvernement, celui-ci se verra en mesure de procéder de suite au payement des indemnités allouées aux propriétaires en vertu de la Loi Agraire, sans attendre les délais fixés par les Commissions. Cette mesure offrirait d'une part aux propriétaires le grand avantage de rentrer immédiatement en possession des sommes qui leur reviennent, et d'autre part aux tenanciers un soulagement réel, car le remboursement des indemnités et des intérêts à payer par eux pourrait être reparti sur des termes plus éloignés.

Attachant une grande importance au maintien de bons rapports avec le Gouvernement Impérial, auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité, le Gouvernement de Son Altesse tient beaucoup à ce qu'il ait une idée exacte de ces efforts en vue de l'exécution équitable de la Loi Agraire. Il espère fermement que partout on se convaincra que les difficultés ne proviennent pas de l'injustice de la Loi Agraire, non plus que d'une application partiale, mais qu'elles sont inhérentes à la nature des rapports qui ont existé depuis des siècles et dont le réglement ne peut plus se différer.

Fort de ses propres dispositions et du bon vouloir dont il a toujours fait preuve dans ses relations avec la Sublime Porte, le Gouvernement Princier a lieu d'espérer à son tour une solution favorable de la question du raccordement du chemin de fer qui attend encore son réglement, et qui est d'une importance majeure pour le développement économique des deux États.

Vous êtes autorisé, M. le Ministre, à donner lecture de la présente dépêche à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, mais seulement à titre de renseignement.

En terminant, je vous annonce que nous avons jugé devoir de notre propre initiative remettre sur le tapis la question des Albanais émigrés des nouveaux territoires et nous espérons, vu le mode proposé pour ce rapatriement et les conditions que nous y mettons, que cette question aussi trouvera sa prochaine et équitable solution.

J'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-joint, pour votre information, copie de la note que j'ai adressée à ce sujet à Khalid Bey, Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) PIROTCHANATZ.

No. 48.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received November 26, 4 P.M.*)

(No. 433.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 26, 1881, 2 P.M.*

THE Greek post-offices were forcibly closed yesterday here and at Janina.

As noted in my despatch No. 1041 of the 22nd instant, I had endeavoured to dissuade the Foreign Minister from taking this step.

At a conference yesterday, the Ambassadors agreed to represent to their respective Governments that the closing of the Greek post-offices being now an accomplished fact, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs declared that the act was an act of reprisal for the violent closing of the Turkish post-office at Larissa while negotiations on the subject were actually pending, a simple collective "démarche" upon their part would not suffice to obtain a revocation of the measure. Each of them, however, would individually continue to recommend to the Porte a conciliatory attitude.

No. 49.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(*Received November 28.*)

(No. 155.) *Sophia, November 7, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople in reply to a letter which I have received from his Excellency with regard to a statement made by Assim Pasha, that the prevalence of brigandage in some districts in Northern Macedonia was chiefly owing to the connivance of the Bulgarian frontier authorities, who allowed Bulgarian brigand bands, when pursued by Turkish troops, to enter the Principality unmolested.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 49.

Mr. Lascelles to the Earl of Dufferin.

Sophia, November 5, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 22nd ultimo, inclosing a copy of a despatch to Lord Granville on the subject of brigandage in Macedonia.

I have called the attention of M. Voulcovitch to the statement made to your Excellency by Assim Pasha, that the prevalence of brigandage in some districts to the north of Salonica is due to the connivance of the Bulgarian frontier authorities, who allow Bulgarian brigand bands, when pursued by Ottoman troops, to enter the Principality unmolested.

M. Voulcovitch said that, since he had been in office, no case had occurred of Macedonian brigands taking refuge in Bulgarian territory, and he believed that none had taken place for more than a year. He said that, as no means of official communication at present existed between the Principality and the Porte, it was impossible to come to an arrangement, which would otherwise have been an easy matter, with regard to the measures to be taken on the frontier in order to prevent the possibility of brigands taking refuge in Bulgaria.

In my despatch to Lord Granville of the 21st September last, I reported that Nihad Pasha had communicated to me the various proposals that had been made on this subject, and had informed me that the refusal of M. Voulcovitch to carry on negotiations with him would have the effect of preventing an arrangement being come to.

Nihad Pasha has now informed me that he is preparing a detailed Report upon the subject, which he has kindly promised to communicate to me as soon as he shall have finished it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 50.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received November 28.*)

(No. 1027.) *Constantinople, November 18, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Consul Calvert on the subject of the dismissal of

Christian officers from the Adrianople gendarmerie, in order to replace them by Mussulmans.

In my despatch No. 1004 of the 15th instant, I had the honour to address your Lordship with reference to this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 50.

Consul Calvert to the Earl of Dufferin.

Adrianople, November 5, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAD yesterday the honour to telegraph to your Lordship that, according to a trustworthy confidential communication made to me, the Porte had determined to replace the Christian officers of the Adrianople gendarmerie by Mussulmans, and that an Iradé to that effect had already been signed by the Sultan

On the abstract undesirability of this measure it would be idle for me to enlarge; but as regards the harm of its application in the Province of Adrianople, it is due to state that, apart from the irritation it will produce on the minds of the Christian population, it will be an act of injustice to the two individuals who constitute the Christian element in the body of gendarmerie officers at Adrianople, because they have both performed their duties with zeal and ability.

The officers in question are Major Iskender Bey and Captain Yanko Effendi, the former a Pole and the latter a Greek of Adrianople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 51.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 138.)

Belgrade, November 20, 1881.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 131 of the 22nd ultimo I had the honour to state to your Lordship that the Servian Minister of Foreign Affairs was about to address a note to the Ottoman Envoy here embodying the promises of the Government for the immediate payment of the sums adjudged due to the Mussulman proprietors for the expropriation of their lands in the ceded territory, and further, that copies would be sent to the Servian Diplomatic Agents at the chief Courts for communication to the Governments to which they are accredited.

Such, indeed, was the arrangement made with Khalid Bey, and announced by M. Mijatovich both to my French colleague and to myself. We were given to understand that the plan had been approved by the other Ministers, and that the note had been already drawn up. However, on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs passing from the hands of M. Mijatovich to those of M. Pirochanatz, a less formal course was adopted; the note in question was addressed to the Servian Representative at Constantinople, with instructions to read it to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, for his simple information, and a copy was given unofficially to Khalid Bey. It is to the kindness of the latter that I am indebted for the copy which I have now the honour to transmit.

Your Lordship will see that the intention, of which M. Mijatovich informed me, of mentioning in the note the desire of the Servian Government for the return of the Albanian refugees, has been carried out, and that a paragraph has also been added expressing the hope that the Ottoman Government would come to an agreement on the question of the junction of the Turkish and Servian railways.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 52.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received November 28.)

E

(No. 139. Very Confidential.)

Belgrade, November 20, 1881.

My Lord,

MY Turkish colleague was good enough to read to me to-day the note to his Government, transmitting copy of the note of the Servian Minister of Foreign Affairs to the Servian Representative at Constantinople on the Agrarian question, of which I have also had the honour to inclose a copy to your Lordship in my despatch No. 138 of this day's date.

Khalid Bey commences by informing his Government that, in the negotiations which have resulted in the arrangement proposed in the Servian note, he had been greatly assisted by the good offices of the Ministers of England and France; that from his colleagues of Russia, Austria, and Italy he had received no help whatever; that his German colleague had been absent while the negotiations were in progress, but that the German Government had shown its friendly disposition by urging the Servian Government, through its Representative at Berlin, to treat the Mussulman proprietors in a very liberal manner.

He then refers to the protest of the Sublime Porte against the Agrarian Law, the object of which was to deprive the Mussulman inhabitants in the ceded provinces of their property, and to the instructions to the Ottoman Legation at Belgrade to support the claims of the proprietors. A careful study of these various claims showed that they referred to two special points: the one was the alienation of the lands in question against an insufficient indemnification, for the payment of which the proprietors had no guarantee; and the other was the loss of the revenues actually resulting from the cultivation of the lands since the expulsion of the proprietors. It would be seen that the inclosed note dealt with both these points; that the Servian Government purposed itself to undertake the immediate payment of the indemnities as determined by the valuations of the Agrarian Commissions, and likewise to propose to the Skupshtina the contraction of a loan for the purpose. It would further be seen that the Government offered also immediately to hand over to the proprietors the entire back revenues from the land, with a deduction of 5 per cent., which would be retained for cost of administration. His Excellency adds that the amount required for these two purposes will probably be 6,000,000 fr. or 7,000,000 fr., and that the appeal of the Servian Government to the house of Boutoux, through its financial representative here, the Marquis d'Harcourt, has been already made, and favourably entertained.

His Excellency, lastly, points out to his Government that, the total abolition of the Agrarian Law being absolutely impossible, the only thing that the Porte could hope to obtain by diplomatic means was to induce the Servian Government to introduce certain modifications. To this end we had been working, and the result was the modifications now proposed by the Servian Government, and the acceptance or rejection of which rested with the Imperial Government.

Such were the contents, as accurately as I can remember them, of his Excellency's despatch to the Sublime Porte.

In reply to my inquiry what he thought would be the decision of his Government, Khalid Bey replied that Turkey had lost territory and towns enough, and it was not likely it would elect to go to war to enforce the claims of Ottoman subjects. On the other hand, he was firmly of opinion that the present concessions were pretty well all that could be obtained by diplomatic negotiation. He, therefore, thought the Porte would accept them on a certain condition. The condition to which he alluded was that in those cases in which the Mussulman proprietors continued to protest against the insufficient amount of the indemnity fixed by the Commissions, the valuations should be subjected to a further revision. His Government might very likely insist on obtaining this act of simple justice, and in any efforts which he might be instructed to make for this object he trusted he might still rely on the assistance of those of his colleagues to whom he already owed so much.

Before the conversation closed I pointed out that in the despatch which he had read to me I noticed the absence of any recommendation of the Servian proposals, and I further took the liberty of inquiring whether in some separate despatch he did not intend to give his Government the advantage of his own opinion.

He replied by pointing to the fact that his promise to the Servian Government to recommend the acceptance of their proposals was made on the distinct condition that

the note in which they were embodied should be addressed officially to himself. By insisting on a departure from that plan the Servian Government had released him (not much to his regret) from his promise. Nor did he now purpose to take upon himself the responsibility of advising his Government to make any concession. But it would not be difficult for it to gather his opinion from his despatch, inasmuch as he had therein stated that all had now been gained which could be gained by diplomatic means ("par voie diplomatique"). A barren protest could serve no end, and he trusted his Government would not seek to impose on him the duty of transmitting one.

Finally, his Excellency begged that the communication he had made to me might, for obvious reasons, be treated as strictly confidential, adding that he had shown his despatch to no one but myself. My French colleague, to whom he would doubtless have communicated it, is absent on leave.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 53.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 1031.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, November 21, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which I have received from Mr. Lascelles, inclosing a Memorandum drawn up by Nihad Pasha, the Ottoman Agent at Sophia, on the subject of brigandage on the Macedonian frontier.

Your Lordship will perceive that there is a wide difference between the statements contained in this Memorandum and those made by the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs to Mr. Lascelles, as reported in the despatch from that gentleman, of which I had the honour to forward a copy to your Lordship in my despatch No. 987 of the 10th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 53.

Mr. Lascelles to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Sophia, November 12, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 5th instant, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a Memorandum which Nihad Pasha has been kind enough to communicate to me, giving a detailed account of his negotiations with the Bulgarian Government, with the view of coming to an arrangement for the prevention of brigandage on the Macedonian frontier.

Nihad Pasha points out that the different Bulgarian Ministers, while professing to be animated with the best intentions, have invariably discovered pretexts for preventing an arrangement being come to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 53.

Report of Nihad Pasha on Brigandage in Macedonia.

A LA suite de l'institution de la Principauté de Bulgarie, composée de provinces détachées du complexe de l'Empire Ottoman, l'unité d'autorité pour maintenir l'ordre et la tranquillité en deça et en delà de la nouvelle ligne de démarcation étant rompue, le brigandage a pu facilement éclore et prendre des proportions inquiétantes dans les provinces limitrophes. Bien que le Gouvernement Impérial ait pris de prime abord en sérieuse considération ces symptômes fâcheux, il ne voulait y voir que le mal fortuit de la nouvelle situation, et il devait attendre l'établissement d'une administration régulière dans la Principauté pour le combattre efficacement de commun accord.

Ainsi, déjà au commencement de l'année 1880, le Ministre Impérial des Affaires Etrangères a soulevé la question de l'entente à établir entre les autorités limitrophes Ottomanes et Bulgares, en vue des mesures à prendre en commun contre le brigandage, et M. Zancoff, qui avant son départ de Sophia en avait été saisi, a fait croire qu'il abonde parfaitement dans le sens des propositions du Gouvernement Impérial. De nouveau, à la date du 17 Avril, 1880, le Ministre Impérial a adressé à Nihad Pacha un télégramme pour l'informer que les Gouverneurs-Généraux de Kossovo, de Monastir, et de Salonique signalent continuellement à la Sublime Porte les déprédations commises dans ces provinces par des bandes de brigands, formées sur le sol de la Principauté, et pour lui prescrire d'en entretenir M. Zancoff, qui depuis était devenu Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, afin d'établir un accord avec le Gouvernement Princier pour combattre efficacement le fléau du brigandage qui désole les provinces sus-mentionnées.

Par son Rapport du 4 Mai, 1880, Nihad Pacha a rendu compte à son Excellence Sawas Pacha, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, du résultat des démarches qu'il avait faites auprès du Gouvernement Princier, en conformité avec l'ordre reçu. M. Zancoff l'avait assuré qu'il abonde toujours dans le sens de la proposition que le Ministre Impérial lui avait faite antérieurement, que les ordres seront donnés de nouveau aux autorités limitrophes Bulgares leur prescrivant de prêter concours aux autorités Ottomanes dans la poursuite des brigands. M. Zancoff avait, de plus, exprimé l'opinion que les brigandages signalés se produisaient à la suite de la circonstance accidentelle de l'agglomération à la proximité des frontières, des émigrés Bulgares de la Macédoine. Pour remédier à cet inconvénient, avait ajouté le Ministre, des mesures ont été prises pour les installer à l'intérieur de la Principauté. M. Zancoff était arrivé ainsi à la conclusion que comme le mal du brigandage n'était guère permanent, et ne provenait que de causes fortuites qui, par l'application des mesures sus-mentionnées, devront disparaître, il ne serait, pour le moment, opportun de faire dans ce but une Convention analogue à celle que la Sublime Porte avait conclue avec la Grèce. Des démarches de Nihad Pacha, on le voit, n'ont obtenu qu'un résultat négatif. En prodiguant des assurances vagues, M. Zancoff ne voulait prendre aucun engagement positif à l'effet d'un accord à établir pour combattre le brigandage signalé.

Ainsi, dans une dépêche subséquente, du 20 Mai, 1880, adressée à Nihad Pacha, son Excellence Sawas Pacha persista à penser que le meilleur moyen pour extirper le brigandage serait l'établissement d'une entente entre les autorités limitrophes. A cet effet, le Ministre Impérial des Affaires Etrangères avait proposé au Gérant de l'Agence Princière à Constantinople, l'adoption d'un de trois modes de procéder, à savoir: instructions identiques à adresser aux autorités limitrophes par la Sublime Porte et l'Administration Princière; notes à échanger entre le Ministère Impérial et l'Agence de la Principauté, spécifiant les mesures à adopter sur les lieux; entente à établir entre les autorités Ottomanes et Bulgares de la frontière sur leur moyen d'action. Le Gouvernement Impérial estimait que sur cette base le but de la sollicitude commune sera facilement atteint. M. le Gérant de l'Agence Princière ayant promis au Ministère Impérial d'écrire dans ce sens à Sophia, Nihad Pacha avait reçu l'ordre d'y conformer son langage. A cet effet il a donné à M. Zancoff lecture de la dépêche sus-mentionnée, en relevant d'une part la pleine confiance que professe le Gouvernement Impérial pour le concours loyal de la Principauté dans le but commun, et en insistant d'autre part sur la nécessité et l'urgence de s'entendre sur l'adoption d'un des modes proposés, mais M. Zancoff, tout en protestant des meilleures intentions du Gouvernement Princier, se dérobait à prendre un engagement formel pour établir une entente de l'action commune.

Un acte grave de brigandage qui avait été commis quelque temps après sur le territoire Ottoman par une bande de brigands formée sur le sol de la Principauté, avait fourni une preuve saisissante de la nécessité et de l'urgence d'une entente que le Gouvernement Impérial avait proposé à l'Administration Bulgare pour combattre ce fléau un convoi d'émigrés Musulmans, parti d'Uskub pour retourner en Bulgarie et étant arrivé à Egir Palanka le 26 Juin, avait pris campement à une distance égale d'une heure et demie de cette ville et de la frontière Bulgare. Ce soir, à 1 heure après le coucher du soleil, il a été attaqué par une bande de soixante-dix à quatre-vingts brigands armés de fusils. Dans le démêlé dix émigrés ont été tués, treize blessés et un brigand mortellement atteint par un coup de hache, seule arme que possédaient les émigrés. Les émigrés ont été dépouillés de presque tout leur bien, douze chevaux et trois paires de bœufs leur ont été enlevés.

Par la déposition des émigrés faite devant l'autorité d'Egir Palanka, comme par les aveux tant du bandit blessé que d'un autre bandit, qu'une patrouille de poste

militaire Turc de la frontière, faisant ronde à l'aube du jour, a pu saisir, il a été constaté que le coup avait été fait par une bande de brigands formée sur le sol de la Principauté. Les émigrés, poursuivant la route douloureuse du rapatriement et arrivés à Kustendil, avait bien reconnu trois de leurs chevaux enlevés et les avaient réclamés, mais l'autorité Bulgare de l'endroit leur avait déclaré qu'elle devait les retenir comme "corpus delicti" pour instruire l'enquête. Depuis, les chevaux reconnus n'ont pas été restitués aux propriétaires et les brigands n'ont pas pu être découverts.

Nihad Pacha, informé de ces faits par les émigrés arrivés à Sophia, et par une communication du Gouverneur-Général de Kossovo, en avait entretenu M. Zancoff pour demander une rigoureuse enquête contre les détenteurs des chevaux volés, afin de découvrir les brigands sur ces indices positifs. M. Zancoff avait assuré Nihad Pacha qu'il n'en avait reçu aucune information de la part des autorités Bulgares, mais qu'il adressera des ordres en conséquence à Kustendil. Il avait exprimé le regret de ce que l'autorité Turque d'Egir Palanka n'avait pas sans retard informé celle de Kustendil d'un si grave incident, tandis que naguère encore il s'était refusé à admettre le mode d'une entente à établir entre les autorités Ottomanes et Bulgares de la frontière, n'y étant pas autorisées, ne pouvaient agir de leur propre initiative.

La répugnance du Ministre Bulgare qui était à cette époque en fonction pour établir une entente d'action commune contre le brigandage, et son refus persistant d'accéder aux propositions que la Sublime Porte avait faites dans ce but, devait rendre stériles les efforts isolés des autorités Ottomanes.

Toutes les fois que des bandes de brigands formées sur le sol de la Principauté avaient été pourchassées par les postes des troupes Turques, ils repassaient la frontière, et ils y trouvaient asile et impunité. Les Commandants Militaires ayant signalé des actes de brigandage se renouvelant continuellement dans ces conditions, la Sublime Porte s'était empressée d'en saisir l'Agence Bulgare à Constantinople. Bien que cette Agence n'avait pas manqué de donner des assurances que des soins particuliers sont et seront observés de la part du Gouvernement Princier pour empêcher les incursions des brigands, cependant les faits prouvaient le contraire, et les Commandants Militaires ainsi que les Gouverneurs-Généraux ne discontinuaient pas de signaler de nouvelles incursions des brigands, et leur retraite assurée au delà de la ligne de démarcation.

En conséquence de cet état de choses, son Altesse le Premier Ministre avait adressé à Nihad Pacha une dépêche, en date du 7 Mai, 1881, pour lui communiquer en copie un télégramme adressé par le Commandant de Salonique au Ministère de la Guerre, concernant les actes de brigandage commis par des bandes Bulgares qui franchissent la ligne de démarcation, ainsi qu'une lettre du Gouverneur-Général de Kossovo, signalant les crimes et les déprédations perpétrés dans le village Lika, près de Malich, par des brigands de la Bulgarie, et les copies d'autres Rapports reçus précédemment et ayant trait aux incursions des brigands Bulgares.

Son Altesse le Premier Ministre relève qu'il résulte de la lecture de ces pièces que la principale cause qui entrave et empêche l'anéantissement du brigandage, est que les autorités Bulgares négligent de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour empêcher la libre entrée dans la Principauté des brigands poursuivis par les troupes Ottomanes, et que les assurances données à ce sujet par l'Agence Princière étaient contredites par les faits. En conséquence, Son Altesse avait ordonné à Nihad Pacha de faire auprès du Gouvernement Princier des démarches pressantes en vue de provoquer des mesures efficaces pour obvier à cet état de choses intolérable et informer la Sublime Porte du résultat obtenu.

Nihad Pacha s'était empressé d'entretenir le Général Ehrnrooth, chargé à cette époque des fonctions de Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, de la question grave du brigandage, objet de la communication sus-mentionnée de la Sublime Porte.

Le Général Ehrnrooth s'était montré tout disposé à prendre les arrangements nécessaires pour combattre ce fléau, qui malheureusement avait été si longtemps toléré au grand préjudice tant matériel que moral des provinces limitrophes. Par sa note verbale du 2 Juillet, en rappelant à Nihad Pacha les entretiens qu'ils avaient eus sur l'intérêt qu'il y aurait pour les populations Turque et Bulgare de chercher à établir un bon *modus vivendi* sur la frontière de la Macédoine, le Général avait communiqué au Commissaire Impérial un extrait des instructions données aux Délégués Bulgares en vue de concerter avec les Délégués Serbes les dispositions policières à observer sur la frontière, et avait engagé à cette occasion Midhat Pacha d'examiner si quelques-unes des mesures y indiquées ne pourraient trouver leur application dans la zone limitrophe de la Macédoine et de la Bulgarie. Mais au grand regret de tous les vrais amis de la Principauté, qui n'ont en vue que sa prospérité et le fonctionnement régulier de son Gouvernement, le Général Ehrnrooth avait quitté dans l'intervalle le

pays, et la solution de la question poursuivie par le Gouvernement Impérial avait dû subir un nouveau retard.

Néanmoins, Nihad Pacha n'avait pas manqué de renouveler auprès de M. Stoïloff, le remplaçant provisoire du Général Ehrnrooth au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, les démarches nécessaires en vue d'arriver à une entente d'une action commune contre le mal latent du brigandage.

Par sa note verbale du 28 Juillet, 1881, le Commissaire Impérial avait recommandé cette question importante à la sérieuse considération du Ministre Princier, et lui avait fait remarquer que les meilleures intentions et les assurances données à ce sujet par le Gouvernement Princier à la Sublime Porte sont restées et devaient rester stériles tant qu'un arrangement, une entente positive dans le sens des propositions faites antérieurement par la Sublime Porte, ne soit établi entre le Gouvernement Impérial et le Gouvernement Princier. En attendant qu'une telle entente soit établie, Nihad Pacha avait prié M. Stoïloff de faire prendre des mesures afin que dorénavant des bandes de brigands ne puissent pas passer la ligne de démarcation, et que les brigands qui, poursuivis, cherchent à la repasser, soient arrêtés et punis.

La persévérance incessante de Nihad Pacha n'avait pas obtenu cette fois encore un meilleur résultat. Bien que M. Stoïloff, s'inspirant des sentiments d'équité et de justice de Son Altesse le Prince et de son souci vigilant pour préserver la dignité et l'honneur de la jeune Principauté, ne pouvait qu'accéder aux propositions de la Sublime Porte, il a quitté le Ministère sans qu'aucune mesure fut prise pour enrayer l'extension du brigandage.

Néanmoins, à la date du 18 Août, 1881, le Ministère Impérial des Affaires Etrangères avait adressé à Nihad Pacha une nouvelle dépêche, lui prescrivant d'attirer de nouveau la sérieuse attention du Gouvernement Princier sur le brigandage signalé par de recents rapports de son Excellence Dervish Pacha, Commandant Militaire en Macédoine. Il résulte, en effet, de ces rapports, relève la dépêche susmentionnée, que le brigandage a pris dans ces derniers temps des proportions considérables, les bandits, sûrs de l'impunité dont ils sont entourés de l'autre côté de la ligne de démarcation, continuent à exercer leurs exploits plus fréquemment que jamais, et avec une audace de plus en plus accentuée. Vol, pillage, meurtre, tels sont les traits caractéristiques d'une situation qui ne laisse pas que de présenter des dangers sérieux.

Le Rapport de son Excellence Dervish Pacha est instructif; il relève que les exploits des bandes de brigands formées sur le sol de la Principauté s'exercent dans les districts dépendant de l'arrondissement d'Uskub, surtout du côté de Stroundja; que les brigands poursuivis par les postes militaires, trouvent protection au delà de la ligne de démarcation, et qu'ainsi le plus grand deploiement de troupes ne pourra donner des résultats efficaces; que d'après informations et contestations le centre pour la formation et l'expédition des bandes de brigands est à Kustendil, et que ces agissements ne peuvent pas être ignorés des autorités locales. Bien que les autorités Ottomanes aient fait des démarches auprès des autorités Bulgares pour demander leur concours à la répression du brigandage, elles sont restées sans effet. Les habitants de la Macédoine exaspères par les déprédations, les crimes, et l'impunité des brigands, ont présenté cinq requêtes collectives constatant les faits susmentionnés, et demandant de former des bandes de volontaires pour les opposer aux bandes de brigands, pour leur donner la chasse et pour les poursuivre au delà des limites de démarcation. Son Excellence Dervish Pacha sachant bien que le Gouvernement Impérial ne pourraient admettre ces moyens d'action de la justice populaire, suggère à la Sublime Porte de faire demander au Gouvernement Princier d'établir sur des points convenables de la frontière des postes militaires à l'instar de ceux que les Commandants des troupes Ottomanes ont eu soin d'installer de l'autre côté de la ligne de démarcation, avec mission de rejeter les brigands, qui tenteraient de repasser en Bulgarie, sur les troupes leur donnant la chasse, et de les autoriser réciproquement de pénétrer dans ce but sur le territoire voisin des provinces limitrophes. En cas de refus, conclut son Excellence Dervish Pacha, la connivence serait mise en lumière et la Sublime Porte pourrait prendre d'autres mesures, qu'un pareil cas exigerait.

Conformément à l'ordre contenu dans la dépêche susmentionnée du 13 Août, Nihad Pacha avait entretenu M. Vouleovitch sur la nécessité d'adopter d'urgence des mesures que le mal signalé du brigandage exige, et en avait fait un Rapport adressé au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères à la date du 10 Septembre. M. Vouleovitch, tout en contestant la compétence de Nihad Pacha à traiter cette question, vu qu'il n'était pas muni d'un mandat spécial, reconnaissant et le mal et la nécessité d'une entente pour le combattre, mais il croyait que cette entente devrait être établie par une voie régulière à Constantinople. M. Vouleovitch savait bien que cette voie

régulière, la communication directe de l'Agence Bulgare avec le Ministère Impérial des Affaires Etrangères, ne fonctionnait guère, et en formulant cette exigence, il renouvelait sous une autre forme le refus de ses prédécesseurs à accéder aux propositions de la Sublime Porte. Cette fois le Ministre reconnaît bien la nécessité de l'entente, mais sous condition qu'elle soit établie par une voie régulière; pourtant, quand cette voie régulière fonctionnait, les Ministres du Gouvernement Princier trouvaient inopportun de l'établir. Il est très instructif d'étudier ces évolutions: la répugnance d'établir une entente d'action commune contre le brigandage s'affirme toujours, et si M. Voulcovitch l'admet présentement, sous la condition précitée, on serait tenté de croire qu'il n'a pas à cœur autant la répression du brigandage que d'exercer par ce moyen une pression sur le Gouvernement Impérial pour faire accepter les prétentions d'une portée politique que l'Agence Bulgare soutient à Constantinople.

En réponse au dernier Rapport du Commissaire Impérial, son Excellence Assim Pacha lui avait adressé à la date du 13 Octobre, 1881, une récente dépêche pour l'engager à renouveler des démarches d'une manière énergique et à réagir contre les mauvaises dispositions qui se manifestent à Sophia. Il y est relevé que la situation empire chaque jour davantage, que le brigandage menace de compromettre sérieusement la sécurité de la population voisine de la ligne de démarcation. Les deux Rapports y joints du Département de la Guerre, avec leurs annexes, signalant que les malfaiteurs font fréquemment leur apparition du côté d'Uskub et de Djourma, et ne discontinuaient pas d'y commettre des crimes, grâce aux facilités qu'ils trouvent en Bulgarie, Nihad Pacha avait attiré encore une fois de plus l'attention de M. Voulcovitch sur cet état de choses. Mais le Ministre s'était retranché dans le mutisme, en maintenant la condition ingénieuse de faire traiter cette question par la voie régulière à Constantinople, question à laquelle d'ailleurs il n'attachait qu'une médiocre importance, disant que le brigandage peut se produire partout. Nihad Pacha lui avait fait observer que le brigandage est partout un mal grave, mais qu'il acquiert *in casu* une gravité particulière par l'attitude des refus d'établir une entente que les Ministres du Gouvernement Princier persistent à vouloir observer, attitude si bien faite pour encourager le mal qu'il s'agit de combattre par une action combinée. Néanmoins, M. Voulcovitch n'avait pas cru devoir abandonner le parti pris contre lequel tous les raisonnements, tous les efforts, doivent rester sans effet. Telles sont les diverses phases par lesquelles la question du brigandage, et l'insistance de la Sublime Porte à établir une entente pour le combattre, à passé depuis deux ans sans aboutir à aucun résultat. Le Gouvernement Impérial se trouve ainsi devant l'alternative ou de forfaire à l'obligation de défendre ses habitants contre les exactions des brigands, ou de les poursuivre au delà de la ligne de démarcation du pays vassal, qui se soustrait obstinément à la règle ordinaire d'une entente que le mal signalé, que la sécurité et tranquillité communes des provinces voisines exigent.

Sophia, le 10 *Novembre,* 1881.

No. 54.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received November* 28.)

(No. 1034. Confidential.)

Constantinople, November 21, 1881.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship will have perceived from a recent despatch of Captain Jones, namely, that of the 29th October, that not only has a national party apparently formed itself in Eastern Roumelia, in opposition to what may be called the foreign and Russian interest, but that it has now acquired a commanding ascendency in the Provincial Assembly and in the country.

The other day I took occasion to call the attention of the Prime Minister to this fact, and suggested that the wisest course for Turkey to pursue would be to abandon the vain hope of ever reacquiring a position of military domination over the province, frankly to accept accomplished facts, and to give a cordial and loyal support to Aleko Pasha and to the indigenous political leaders who had now acceded to power. It was evident, I said, that the more obstinately Prince Alexander persevered in his arbitrary policy, the more heavily would he have to lean on Russia, and, consequently, the more disinclined would the Roumelians be to throw in their lot with a Russified and autocratically-governed Principality.

Under such circumstances, if only they felt that there was no danger of their

autonomy and constitutional privileges being interfered with, their natural impulse would be to lean upon Turkey as their friend and protector, and by these honourable and legitimate methods the Sultan might find in the reconquered loyalty of the Eastern Roumelians a far safer frontier than the Balkans. Even if in the future history of the world it was destined that the Principality and the province should unite, it would be far more to the advantage of Turkey that Bulgaria should join a contented and reconciled Roumelia than that Roumelia should be driven by the irritating policy of the Porte into association with a Russified Bulgaria.

Saïd Pasha received these observations very courteously, and said that the policy I had described was undoubtedly the one it would be desirable to pursue, but, unfortunately, Aleko Pasha was essentially Russian in his sympathies, and could not be trusted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 55.

Earl Granville to Count de Bylandt.

Foreign Office, November 29, 1881.

M. le Ministre,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Representative at Sophia has been instructed to use his good offices with the Bulgarian Government in any discussion which may arise between them and his Netherland colleague upon the question of subjecting residents in Bulgaria under the protection of the Netherlands to military service.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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